Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

In a CNMI election, no one can tell how you voted. Do you believe that to be true or false?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Fr. Isaac Masga Ayuyu is presented with a U.S. congressional commendation. ➤ PAGE 8

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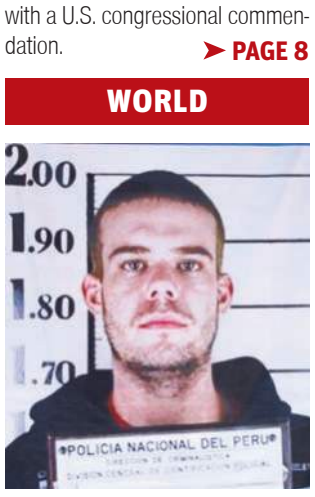

Joran van der Sloot pleads guilty to killing a Peruvian woman. ➤ PAGE 20

LIFE & STYLE

Ashton Kutcher is interested in continuing with "Two and a Half Men." ➤ PAGE 23

USCIS to extend Jan. parole for non-adjudicated CW applicants

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Some aliens start to re-apply for 'IR parole'

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will extend parole for Commonwealth-only worker applicants whose petitions have not been adjudicated by the time their parole expires on Jan. 31, barely two weeks from now, according to USCIS regional media manager Marie Thérèse Sebrechts.

USCIS has already granted CW status and issued notices for biometrics appointments to many nonresident workers. However, there's still no telling how many of the over 11,000 aliens who were petitioned for CW status as of Dec. 9 may need to extend their paroles that expire on Jan. 31.

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FIVE-DAY CHALLENGE

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), left, and wife Andrea partake in a meal as part of Sablan's five-day challenge to live on $4.87 a day, the maximum food stamp benefit for an individual in the CNMI, during lunch hour yesterday in his office in Susupe. Sablan seeks to convince the Fitial administration to work with him to have the CNMI included the national food stamp program which he said will result in more food aid.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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PSS cuts accreditation ties with WASC

» North Central Association accepts NMI public schools; new accreditation until 2015

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After years of being affiliated with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the CNMI Public School System has ended its accreditation ties with the organization and has aligned itself with another accrediting group that has already accepted all CNMI public schools into its fold.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan disclosed yesterday that public schools' accreditation with WASC will end in June this year and that PSS has already been accepted by the North Central Association as its newest member.

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10-cent gas price hike

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands increased its pump prices by 10 cents a gallon at 3pm yesterday, catching Saipan motorists by surprise especially because it's only been less than two months since oil giants cut their prices by 5 cents a gallon.

As of early last night, Shell Marianas had yet to adjust its prices. Both companies typically mirror each other's price changes.

Mobil's regular unleaded gasoline on Saipan is now $4.809 a gallon, following the 10-cent price hike.

Its super unleaded gasoline now costs $5.129 a gallon, higher than the CNMI's minimum wage of $5.05 an hour.

Diesel, meanwhile, is now $5.319 a gallon.

Saipan, along with Rota and Tinian, has among the highest gas pump prices in the United States and its territories.

Crude oil soared to its highest price in several months, at over $103 a barrel. Analysts have predicted that gas prices will continue to climb because of a combination of factors that include seasonal demand, rising tensions with Iran, and China's increasing demand for oil.

Iran, for example, threatened in late December to block the Strait of Hormuz if sanctions were im-

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Arctic Circle eyes March start of exports to Guam

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Arctic Circle Air, the cargo airline that aims to revive the CNMI's agriculture industry, announced that it would start transporting local produce from the CNMI to Guam in March.

Company officials made the announcement during Wednesday's meeting at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute in Lower Base, which was attended by some 60 farmers who have expressed interest in the venture.

The meeting served as an opportunity for company officials to provide more information and answer questions from local farmers regarding Arctic Circle Air, its setup and arrangements, expectations, and contract provisions.

Paul Zak, vice president for sales, disclosed that Arctic Circle Air will have two flights a day—one in the morning and another in the afternoon—for three to four times a week. The company will charge $0.50/lb for incoming and outgoing cargo, which he said is half the price of Cape Air. Discounted rates may be available depending on the cargo load and quantity.

The company, Zak added, will be working with Triple B Forwarders in the meantime when coordinating delivery once cargo lands in Guam. "Down the road, we've already looked at a facility down in Harmon Industrial area. We just want to see how things go, how big should we go," explained Zak.

He emphasized that Arctic Circle Air

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Local

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Justices remand divorced couple's property squabble to trial court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has vacated a Superior Court order distributing all interests of a business to a woman's ex-husband, saying the trial court did not make a valuation of the business in question before awarding it to him.

The Supreme Court justices disagreed with the trial court's order of distribution to Hyung Kuen Oh of the Korean Business Center and ruled that the trial court failed to support its award to Oh with specific findings of fact.

KBC provides bookkeeping, accounting, tax preparation, and document handling services.

"We remand to the trial court for a proper valuation of KBC and for an equitable distribution thereof based on specific findings of fact," states the high court opinion issued on Dec. 30.

Associate justice Alexandro C. Castro penned the opinion and it was concurred by associate justice John A. Manglona. Former chief justice Miguel S. Demapan heard the oral argument but he retired prior to the issuance of the opinion.

According to court records, Kang Won Hee and her husband, Oh, married in Korea in 1979. The couple has three children. Oh moved to Saipan in 1986 and Hee followed with their children the next year. In 1987, the couple opened KBC. Over the next several years, the couple opened another business known as Oasis Corp. and acquired real properties on Saipan and Korea. Oh has worked at KBC since its incorporation and Hee began to work at KBC in 1992.

In May 2007, Hee filed for divorce, alleging cruel treatment, neglect, and personal indignities. Oh moved out of the family home, but both continued to work at KBC.

Before the divorce, but after the parties became legally separated, Hee incorporated her own business, Provenance Inc., doing business as Hanmi Professional Services.

Oh filed a motion to remove Hee from KBC, claiming that his former wife was diverting customers and business to Hanmi.

The Superior Court in February 2008 issued a decree of divorce distributing some of the marital property pursuant to stipulations. However, this decree did not address the parties' three corporations: KBC, Oasis, and Hanmi.

In November 2010, the Superior Court issued an amended order distributing the three corporations. The trial court equally distributed the stock of Oasis between Hee and Oh; awarded all interests in Hanmi to Hee since Hee formed Hanmi after the couple separated; and awarded all interests in KBC to Oh.

Neither party contested the trial court's distribution of Oasis, Hanmi, or any other martial property apart from KBC.

In refusing to distribute any interest in KBC to Hee, the trial court indicated that the "main factor" that influenced its decision was that Hee diverted several clients from KBC to Hanmi before the court ordered her to vacate KBC.

Based on Oh's testimony, the trial court found that the clients who left KBC for Hanmi represented more than half of KBC's annual revenue.

The trial court reasoned out that, by effectively taking clients representing half of KBC's revenue, Hee de facto distributed the business between herself and her former husband.

The trial court ruled that distribution of half of KBC's stock to Hee would result in a "double award."

Hee, through counsel, G. Anthony Long, appealed. She argued that the trial court erred by distributing all interests in KBC to her former husband.

Oh, through counsel Stephen Nutting, argued that the Supreme Court cannot find the trial court erred in distributing KBC because Hee failed to submit an adequate record on appeal.

In vacating the trial's court order, the justices said since this is a question of law, they do not need a transcript to decide the issue. The justices said that marital property should be divided equally unless there are strong circumstances that warrant an unequal division, such as fraud or waste.

"Here, there are no circumstances that warrant an unequal division," the justices said.

Thus, the justices said, Hee has an undivided one-half interest in all marital property and is entitled to an equitable distribution.

Without proper valuation, the justices said, the trial court would have no ability to equitably divide marital property between the parties when, as is the case with KBC, the value of an asset is not immediately apparent.

"Even assuming that the clients [Hee] took constituted half of KBC's annual revenue, this alone is insufficient to support the trial court's distribution of all interests in KBC to Oh," the justices said.

The justices, however, stressed that they do not suggest that the trial court must distribute KBC equally between Hee and Oh on remand of the case.

On the contrary, the justices said, a determination of the total equity value of KBC at the time of divorce may show that the clients who left KBC and followed Hee to Hanmi truly provide Hee with an equitable distribution of the company.

"However, without a proper valuation of all of KBC's assets, the trial court had no ability to determine that the distribution was equitable," the justices said in the footnote of their judgment.

BOE: Govt to lease—not buy—land for new middle school

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The private land identified for the new middle school in Koblerville could only be used for a limited time as it is only being leased by the government, according to Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero yesterday.

This is contrary to the belief of many that the lot was purchased outright by the government for the Public School System.

During a board meeting yesterday, Guerrero expressed worry of the "uncertainties" the status of the land could bring to the system in the long run.

"What will happen if the lease term ends? How about our school? What if time comes and somebody tells us to move out [because that's the end of the lease term]? These are questions and issues that we need to seriously look at right now because the sooner we address them, the better for us than wait for years [to act]," Guerrero said.

He insisted that PSS must get a clearer picture from the administration about the property.

PSS wants to build the Koblerville Junior High School beside the Saipan Southern High School and the Koblerville Elementary School campuses. The Fitial administration had tapped a federal community development block grant through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to "acquire" the land.

Guerrero

Citing the increasing value of lands, Guerrero believes the government may not be able to afford buying the property when the time comes.

According to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, there are ongoing talks between PSS and the Office of the Governor concerning the status of the land. "Hopefully when we come back, we have the specific answers [from them]," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to prior reports, the housing corporation purchased the lot in Koblerville in July last year for the proposed middle school. Some 600 students from Hopwood Jr. High School will be transferred to the new school once it is completed.

The housing corporation earlier committed to allot three years of its CDBG grants for the new middle school, which is estimated to cost over $2 million.

Sablan reported to the board that for the architectural and engineering design of the building, the governor has proposed to use the same CDBG block grant monies in the completion of the project's A&E. The PSS-CIP office, according to the commissioner, is now working with the housing corporation in doing these preliminary works.

PSS, under its proposal, wants to construct 10 buildings: four classroom buildings with 27 classrooms, a cafeteria, a library, a vocational building, a horticulture building, a music building, and a water storage tank. The entire facility is estimated to house up to 700 students.

Sablan said she requested the administration to consider tapping CIP monies for the actual construction of the school buildings.

Defunct garment firms oppose dismissal of their FICA lawsuit

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REPORTER

Eleven defunct garment factories asked the district court yesterday not to dismiss their lawsuit against the U.S. government and asked it instead to set a case management conference. The factories seek to recover millions of dollars of allegedly wrongfully assessed taxes.

Attorneys Gregory J. Koebel and Alexis Fallon, counsel for the defunct garment factories, told the U.S. District Court for the NMI that they have been diligently prosecuting this case off-record ever since it was filed.

Manglona

Koebel and Fallon said no case management has also been conducted and no scheduling order was ever entered, which would require activity of record in the case. For these reasons, they said the lawsuit should not be dismissed for lack of prosecution.

The 11 former garment factories filed the lawsuit in July 2010. The factories are seeking to recover allegedly wrongfully assessed Social Security and Medicare taxes (collectively called FICA) that were erroneously paid between 2004 and 2007.

Last Dec. 29, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order directing the owners of the 11 defunct garment factories to explain why the court should not dismiss their lawsuit for lack of prosecution. She gave them until yesterday to respond.

The judge noted that the case has been pending for more than a year without any action taken by the parties during that period.

In their reply, Koebel and Fallon admitted that there has been no activity of record on the case since the filing of the U.S. government's answer on Nov. 17, 2010. However, they said there has also been no requirement for any activity of record to be taken since a case management conference has never occurred.

The lawyers pointed out that the fact that there has been no activity of record does not mean that there has been no activity.

"On the contrary, substantial work has been and continues to be undertaken by plaintiffs that directly advance the prosecution of their suit," the lawyers said.

The former garment factories are the American Pacific Textile Inc., Grace International Inc., Handsome Textiles (Saipan) Corp., Hansae (Saipan) Inc., Marianas Garment Manufacturing Inc., Michigan Inc., Neo Fashion Inc., Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. Top Fashion Corp., Uno Moda Corp., and U.S. CNMI Development Corp.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, as well as the former Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corp. and numerous Chinese nationals formerly employed by Concorde and its affiliated companies, also filed last year separate but similar lawsuits against the U.S. government.

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Suit vs Fitial over veto of casino bill under advisement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman heard yesterday Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed by Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) over Fitial's veto of the controversial Saipan casino bill.

Wiseman placed the matter under advisement after hearing the arguments of Palacios and Fitial's counsel, assistant attorney general Michael Stanker.

Palacios argued without a lawyer. *Saipan Tribune* spotted pro-casino lawmakers—House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Reps. Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Ramon S. Basa (Cov-Saipan), Stanley T. Torres (Ind-Saipan), and Edmund S. Villagomez (Cov-Saipan)—in the court gallery.

Before the start of the hearing, Wiseman said that, as a practicing lawyer, he used to work with many of the lawmakers who were in the gallery. Palacios and Stanker did not object to Wiseman presiding over the hearing.

Stanker argued that if a governor vetoes a bill, the lawmakers' remedy is to override the veto, not to file a lawsuit. He also pointed out that the governor has legislative immunity, otherwise every veto will be subjected to court challenge.

Stanker said that Palacios has not experienced a concrete and particularized injury as a result of Fitial vetoing HLB 17-44. "The remedy does not belong to the Judiciary," he said.

In his reply, Palacios emphasized that he never challenged Fitial's veto as that is his prerogative as a governor. Palacios reiterated his earlier position that he is not questioning the veto but the language that Fitial used when he stated that the bill was improperly acted on.

Palacios said an override requires two-thirds of both the House and Senate, therefore the bill would not go anywhere because it would have to go through the Senate, which has consistently blocked casino legislations for Saipan.

Palacios asked the court to just rule on his request to declare whether a local law is a Commonwealth law.

USCIS

From Page 1

USCIS has said people who were paroled due to an expired permit must keep their parole current in order to maintain a legal presence in the United States.

Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal, said yesterday that the greater concern is among those who do not have pending CW petitions but have immediate relatives that are U.S. citizens and still do not have any document showing proof of any immigration status in the CNMI.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, shares the same concern.

He said many of these nonresidents are still in limbo because they have yet to know from USCIS whether their humanitarian parole or one-year parole request will be granted or not.

"I am calling on [Department of Homeland Security] to immediately come up with determination of parole eligibility among mostly immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. These are people who are relying on parole status. Without a DHS decision on their application, they cannot plan, they cannot move on," Syed told *Saipan Tribune.*

While those with CW receipt or status have something to show authorities to support their U.S. citizen relatives' application for food stamp or Medicaid, for example, those who are still waiting for USCIS decision on their parole requests have "nothing" on hand. Many of them could now be considered out of status, pending a decision on their parole requests.

Reyes said he has advised some Mahal members who filed for humanitarian parole before Nov. 28 to re-apply, but this time for the so-called "IR parole" that USCIS announced on Thanksgiving.

The so-called IR parole, once granted, will allow mostly immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain "stateless" individuals to lawfully remain in the CNMI until Dec. 31, 2012. The grant of this parole is on a case-by-case basis.

Most of those covered by this IR parole are those who would benefit from Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's H.R. 1466, a bill that seeks a grant of CNMI-only resident status to four groups of people, including immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.

Action on HR 1466 in Congress has been stalled, while the Fitial administration plans to sue DHS for its decision to grant this so-called IR parole.

Reyes said he has also advised those re-applying for parole to mail their application requests to the USCIS Guam office rather than dropping them off at the USCIS office in Garapan "only because by mailing them, they would at least have a receipt that they mailed an application If they drop it at the TSL Plaza in Garapan, they won't be given any receipt or document proving they submitted an application."

USCIS earlier said that individuals who already applied for parole in November 2011 need not apply again.

Still, Reyes said that nonresidents are worried that USCIS has yet to make a decision on their parole requests filed before Nov. 28, 2011.

He said he has advised some Mahal members to make sure that they put this on the envelope when they mail their IR parole request: ATTN: IMMEDIATE RELATIVE PAROLE – CNMI.

GAS

From Page 1

posed on its oil exports, CNN reports. France, Britain, and Germany have all proposed such sanctions to punish Iran for its nuclear program. The Strait of Hormuz is a critical shipping lane through which 17 million barrels of oil passed per day in 2011, according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency.

Leila Phyllis, 26, said the 10-cent gas price increase would really hurt her household, especially because she just gave birth and is only working part-time.

"I was happy that the prices went down by 5 cents months ago but now it's up by 10 cents," Phyllis said as she was buying $25 worth of gas at the Mobil Garapan station yesterday. She said she will try to make her $25 gas last for a few days, and has been carpooling with a female friend.

Tala Tala Jr., 47, said the $60 gas he pumped into his truck would only last three days, especially now that gas prices went up again.

The Kagman resident said they will further cut expenses, including not eating out as often as they used to, limiting their grocery shopping—"instead of buying steak, we'll only buy Spam"—and limiting the use of air-conditioner to save on power and use that savings instead to buy gas.

Frank Muña, 28, an employee at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., was also surprised at the price change, saying it would mean "less money for food whose prices might also go up."

"I will cut down on habits. For example I'd rather buy food than alcohol. That price increase is disappointing in a lot of ways," the San Antonio resident added.

A retired government employee said she's "gotten used to this."

"It affects us but what can we do?" while filling up her car with $50 worth of gas.

Brett Halstead, an employee at Wondersea Scuba Diving and Diving Boat Charters, said businesses will be financially hit again by this increase.

The last gas price change on Saipan was on Nov. 3, when prices went down by 5 cents a gallon. Prior to that, in July 2011, prices went up by 10 cents.

Retail pump prices are affected by a combination of factors, which include internationally traded wholesale prices, operating and capital cost, distribution costs, taxes and duties, currency exchange rates, and market competition.

Mobil and Shell do not issue advance notice of price changes, so motorists only learn about it either when they gas up or pass by service stations.

PSS

From Page 1

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, or NCA, also known as the North Central Association, is a membership organization consisting of colleges, universities, and schools in 19 U.S. states that is engaged in educational accreditation. It is one of six regional accreditation bodies in the U.S. and its Higher Learning Commission is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the transfer from WASC to NCA is in line with the system's goal to "transition from school level to a district level" accreditation process.

Accreditation work under WASC focuses and centers on individual schools, which is why schools have different accreditation terms and statuses despite being under a single accrediting body. In contrast, Sablan said that NCA covers in its accreditation process the entire school system, including its central offices and the education board.

"We're now looking at a bigger picture of the system, which includes our central office and the governing body, which is the Board of Education. I think the benefit is to see the consistency, whether or not the regulations are being implemented, whether policies are consistent and fair across the board, and this will allow the staff of the central office to participate equally in a quality assurance review on the things we set to do for our children," Sablan said.

At yesterday's board meeting, Sablan awarded each school principal a certificate of accreditation from NCA that is valid through June 30, 2015. Because WASC's accreditation of public schools is valid up to June 2012, this means that all public schools are now accredited by the two organizations. Sablan said that WASC has already acknowledged PSS' decision to transition to the NCA.

With PSS now accredited by NCA, Sablan said this makes the CNMI the first in the Pacific area to achieve this district-wide accreditation.

Under the terms of the NCA accreditation, PSS will electronically submit a report to NCA every year detailing improvements made in schools, the central office, and the board. NCA reviewers will visit the CNMI every five years. The first visit will be in 2015.

For the annual report, each school, board, and department will do their own report that will be compiled together as a state-level report to NCA.

Board chair Marylou Ada described the transition from WASC to NCA as a "good move" for the system as it will deal now with only one accreditation term for all schools and central office.

Principals present in yesterday's meeting also expressed support for the transition to NCA, believing it will bring more progress to the school system as a whole.

According to Kagman High School principal Alfred Ada, there are five standards outlined under the NCA process and each standard includes a "checklist" of things that need to be achieved. WASC, he said, has four categories.

Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia Demapan also favors the transfer, citing the inclusion of other PSS programs and offices—all vital to the overall performance of the system. She said the previous process was tedious in that each individual school had to meet its own accreditation requirements and conditions.

Also supporting the transition are Special Education director Suzanne Lizama and Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas, who both agreed that PSS—as a system—has to have one general accreditation status.

"Now, in terms of accreditation process we are going to work as one big team and that's our goal," Barcinas said.

NCA accredits over 10,000 public and private educational institutions in its service area, including more than 1,000 higher education institutions. The service area includes the states of Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, and many others. The association was organized in 1895.

ARCTIC

From Page 1

will "wear two hats" or have two functions: as a shipping service by bringing products to and from Guam; and as a "marketing" agent for local farmers by buying their produce and selling it to off-island markets.

Arctic Circle Air, which will be doing business as Marianas Harvest, will package the produce from local farmers so that farmers will just have to provide the goods that will be packed, labeled and sold in Guam.

Guam imports over $2 million worth of fruits and vegetables from the U.S. mainland and Korea.

Tony Pellegrino, Arctic Circle Air president, said that the CNMI can supply at least a portion of Guam's agriculture needs and this will happen with the support and commitment of local farmers in this cargo airline. A number of hotels and stores are already intent in buying produce from the CNMI, Zak noted.

Zak said they have already identified produce that are "highly desirable" in Guam, including tomato, pepper, root taro, sweet potatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, and eggplant.

These produce were listed in a form that was distributed to farmers at the meeting. Farmers were asked to fill out the form to identify the size of their farm plots and the type of produce they could possibly sell to Marianas Harvest.

Zak explained that the form will help them work with local farmers in identifying which agricultural products would be more efficient for them to produce and sell in larger quantities, based on Guam's market demand.

Once these produce are delivered to Marianas Harvest, Zak said they will weigh, inspect, test the products for pesticides, among others. "You get paid when you deliver the goods," he said.

Zak enumerated key points that will be identified in the contract to be executed between Arctic Circle Air and local farmers, such as what produce will be provided and its specifications, quantities required, delivery date requirements, and responsibilities of each party.

Agricultural consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera pointed out that local farmers can also look at supplying "value added" products to the Guam market. Value added refers to those products that are processed from local produce such as sweet potato chips or coconut oil.

Cabrera said he will personally visit each of the local farmers who've expressed interest in the project. The visits, he said, will help them identify which farmer will produce what product to maximize the potential of farm plots.

Many farmers agreed that the project will be a tremendous help for them who, for a long time, have been unable to sell their goods outside the local market.

Jesus M. Castro, who farms government land in Kagman, said this project is "a farmer's dream" that would help them market their produce.

"Since the garment industry left our islands, sales of produce has been slow and we greatly need to expand our market," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "This is the greatest opportunity to happen to farmers in the last three decades."

Some farmers said the project will be beneficial not only to local farmers but also to those who ship other cargo to and from Guam while others touted the project as one that would engage future generations into farming once again.

Kilili to Fitial: Admin costs lower with nat'l food stamp

» Delegate ends 5-day food challenge

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) told Gov. Benigno R. Fitial again yesterday that the CNMI's inclusion in the national food stamp program would result in an additional $12 million to $24 million in food aid, this time also saying that administrative costs for running the current program might be higher than is necessary. But the Fitial administration is still unconvinced.

Sablan, who ended yesterday his five-day challenge of spending $4.87 a day on food, said the CNMI's cost of administering its current food stamp program is $120 per participant per year.

He said this is much higher than what Guam spends, which is some $80 per participant per year. Guam is part of the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

Another way of making this comparison, Sablan told Fitial, is to note that Guam administers its annual $96.7 million SNAP funds for $2.939 million or 3 cents in administrative costs for every $1 managed.

The CNMI, he said, spent $1.2 million to administer $12.148 million last year, or 10 cents for every $1 managed, "three times the administrative cost ratio for Guam."

"This suggests that the Commonwealth government might be able to operate SNAP at a lower cost than it presently operates its food stamp program," Sablan said in the two-page letter sent to Fitial yesterday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor has yet to review Sablan's letter but said the administration had earlier made known its concerns on certain provisions of SNAP.

"Moving forward, a thorough dialogue between local and federal counterparts would be the best avenue to address the Commonwealth's concerns in an effort to reach an agreement that will be mutually favorable," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He also would like to clarify first what is written in Sablan's letter because currently, under the Nutrition Assistance Program, the administrative cost is fully funded by the federal government.

"Furthermore, comparison to administering the program in Guam should not be the sole basis of projecting costs because it has to be considered that the NMI would have to operate the program on all three municipalities," he added.

Food challenge, book donation

Sablan, in an interview at his office in Susupe during lunch hour yesterday, said it's tough to survive on $4.87 a day, the maximum food stamp benefit for an individual in the CNMI.

"People do this every day. They live on this amount. It's tough," he told *Saipan Tribune*. He said he will continue to push for more food stamp for the people of the Commonwealth.

Demapan

Sablan's five-day challenge to live on $4.87 a day on food seeks to convince the Fitial administration to work with him to get the U.S. Department of Agriculture to include the CNMI in the national food stamp program, which he said will result in more food aid.

Demapan said the Fitial administration's ongoing review of the SNAP versus the NAP programs "is premised on facts and real time financial figures, not petty campaign tactics."

Sablan said the food challenge is not a campaign tactic but a way to experience how hard it is to live on limited food stamp benefits under the current program.

For the last day of his challenge, Sablan had toast and eggs for breakfast for 57 cents, chicken estufao with local long beans for lunch for $1.47, Japanese yakisoba with cucumber tomato salad for dinner for $1.38, drinking water for 50 cents, and four cups of coffee for 60 cents.

For lunch, he was joined by his wife Andrea, who cooked his meals for the five-day challenge.

Sablan said he consulted a registered dietitian to also make sure that the meals would be nutritious. He said he was also able to limit his coffee intake to four cups a day, during the challenge.

After lunch, Sablan went to Northern Marianas College to donate boxes of new, surplus books from the U.S. Library of Congress.

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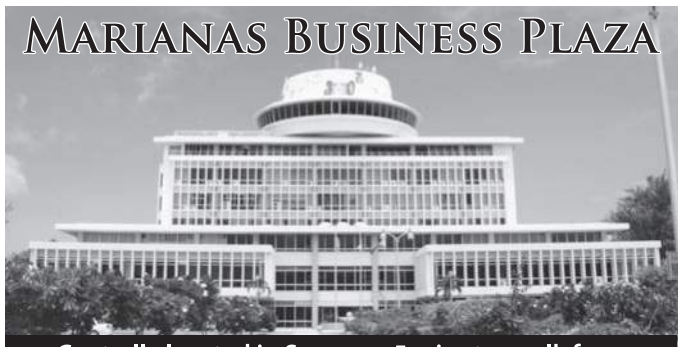
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Sotomayor to meet NMI congressional mock trial champs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Maria Sotomayor will make a short visit to the island this month and has included in her busy schedule an hourlong dialogue with select Commonwealth students.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan disclosed yesterday that Sotomayor has invited members of the CNMI congressional mock trial champion team to a personal dialogue on Jan. 29 at the American Memorial Park. Sablan has also been invited to the event and she has confirmed her attendance.

She said the invitation was coursed through the Integrated Bar Association and is being coordinated by Heather Kennedy.

The dialogue between Sotomayor and the students is slated to last from 45 minutes to about an hour.

Saipan Southern High School's 22-member team was the winner of last year's congressional mock trial competition and competed for the national title representing the CNMI. Sablan said that Sotomayor had asked to meet with the team's members in person so they could directly ask her questions.

The congressional mock trial contest forms part of the "We the People" program, which gives students comprehensive instruction on the U.S.

Sotomayor

Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the principles and values they embody. The program is designed to promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a constitutional democracy.

Sablan is looking forward to another historic event for PSS. "This will be an excellent experience for our children and I hope they will be inspired by the dialogue that they will have with the visiting [justice]. This is the first time that our students are given this opportunity and we look forward to that," she said.

This early, the team members are all excited and are preparing specific questions for Sotomayor, Sablan said.

President Barack Obama nominated Sotomayor for appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court in May 2009 to replace retired Justice David Souter. Her nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in August 2009 by a vote of 68–31.

Sotomayor is expected in the Marianas from Jan. 25 to 30 to attend Guam's and the Northern Mariana Islands' 2012 District Conferences. In addition to attending the conferences, she will also be touring Guam and will also hold a question-and-answer session with students at the University of Guam Field House to be attended by elementary through college students.

Suspected 'ice' supplier falls

Detectives arrested a suspected methamphetamine or "ice" supplier on Wednesday in As Lito.

Lun Lai Xia, 33, jobless, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon on charges of trafficking and possession of a controlled substance. His bail was set at $50,000 cash. Preliminary hearing is on Jan. 19, 2012, at 9am. Associate Judge David A. Wiseman appointed the Office of Public Defender to represent Xia.

Detective Dennis Reyes, who took the witness stand yesterday, said that a "cooperating defendant" managed to buy a total of $340 worth of "ice" from Xia in two buy-walk operations.

After the second buy-walk, which allegedly happened near a school, detectives followed the suspect's car and arrested him. Reyes said the substance recovered from the suspect tested presumptive positive for "ice."

Xia told the court he has been on Saipan for seven months now. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the suspect had already been on Saipan before and had just come back. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Island Artist Exhibit set for Jan. 20

» Registration now open for interested artists

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture has come up with another exhibit as part of its efforts to promote local artists.

The first Island Artist Exhibit, to be held at the Saipan Grand Hotel lobby in Susupe, is scheduled to open to the public on Jan. 20.

Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog said yesterday that registration is now open for the two-month-long exhibit.

"We thank the management and staff of Saipan Grand Hotel for graciously hosting the Island Artist Exhibit, which adds to our list of annual exhibits that promote the works of our gifted artists to the community," he said.

The Arts Council hosts three major exhibits annually. These are the Women's Exhibit in March, the Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit in September, and the Christmas Exhibit in December. All exhibits aim to help local artists display and promote their artwork and find suitable markets for their products.

Interested visual, traditional, and contemporary artists are invited to register for free. Artworks must be submitted to the Arts Council's office next to the post office on Capital Hill.

"We encourage the public to check out the exhibit and support our artists," added Hocog.

To register or for more information, visit the Arts Council or call Darrell Moteisou at 322-9982 or 83. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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- Parent Development Workshop - *February 17th*
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UPCOMING...
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training for DYS Staff and Volunteers-January 17th-19th

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BY LEALAN (LEE) MILLER, CPA
PARTNER, EIDE BAILLY LLP

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When: Thursday, January 19, 2012

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Registration begins at 8:30am

Location: Giovanni, Hyatt Regency Saipan

Seminar Fee: $60 Per Person, Buffet lunch is included

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, January 18, 2012

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Fr. Ike presented with congressional commendation

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fr. Isaac Masga Ayuyu, who is celebrating his 25th sacerdotal anniversary, reached another milestone in his priesthood when he received a congressional commendation from Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan commemorating his service and commitment as one of the longest-serving spiritual leaders of the CNMI.

Ayuyu was joined by Fr. Ryan Jimenez and other members of the CNMI Marriage Encounter team, Sen. Ralph Torres, (R-Saipan) JJ Atalig, Cathy and Charles Cepeda, Gonzalo Pangelinan, Wayne Pangelinan, and Bill Santos when he accepted the award at Sablan's office yesterday.

"I am humbled, honored and grateful for the privilege to be recognized this way and I accept this recognition on behalf of the people of God. I assure them my continued love, prayers and support," Ayuyu, affectionately called Pale' Ike, told *Saipan Tribune*.

The son of Francisca Masga Ayuyu and the late Corbiniano Songao Ayuyu, the younger Ayuyu is the first priest from Rota to be ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa on Aug. 30, 1986. He currently holds the position of Director of Worship at the diocese and Parochial Vicar of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

"My primary support for my vocation came from my parents and my siblings," Ayuyu said.

He believes that being a priest is "an awesome blessing" and a "privilege." "It is in the priest, through the power given to me at my ordination, who makes it possible to experience the real presence of Jesus."

His involvement with the Marriage Encounter Program, Ayuyu said, has brought tremendous joy and life-enhancing experience to him.

"Every time I present at a Marriage Encounter weekend, I witness couples fall in love again and they appreciate their Sacrament of Matrimony. I, too, fall deeper in love with my priesthood and my Sacrament of Holy Orders," he said.

Ayuyu noted, however, that with this privilege comes responsibilities that can be overwhelming. "I have always tried to look at my priesthood as a gift from God and, like any gift, it is something that I can lose or break if I am not careful."

Through Marriage Encounter, Ayuyu learned that "love is a decision" and "when I wake up, the first thing I do is decide to be a pries each and every day. I try never to take my vocation for granted."

Nurturing his vocation through prayers and relationships with people who value his vocation also helps a lot, according to Ayuyu.

"I truly treasure my experience with these people for inevitably, I can feel God supporting me and speaking to me through these people," he said.

As he celebrates his anniversary as a priest, Ayuyu asked the community to continue praying for him and all the other priests.

"Pray that we, priests, remain faithful believers, and thus be channels of the grace of faith to those who depend on our priestly ministry," said Ayuyu. "Pray that we may preserve our chastity. Pray that we priests, if it is God's grace, die a martyr's death, that we might live, all of us, a martyr's life."

Ayuyu thanked Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, and all his brother priests, family and friends from Rota, Saipan, Tinian, and Guam who have helped him become "faithful to the promises I made 25 years ago."

"Thank you for your continued prayers and loving support."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, JJ Atalig, Wayne Pangelinan, Bill Santos, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, Fr. Ike Ayuyu, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Gonzalo Pangelinan, and the CNMI Ecclesial Team, Cathy and Charles Cepeda.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Student cooking competition set

In honor of National Nutrition Month in March, PSS Food and Nutrition Services is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Student Healthy Recipe Contest. This year's theme is "Get Your Plate In Shape" and will focus on the healthy ChooseMyPlate.gov guidelines that replaced the Food Guide Pyramid. Recipes will feature local produce, and will be judged at a cook-off in late March. Public and private schools (K-12) that would to like participate are encouraged to contact PSS nutritionist Dianne Esplin, RD, at dianne.esplin@cnmipss.org for complete rules. The deadline for schools to submit their intent to participate is Monday, Jan. 23, at 4:30pm. Students who are interested should contact their principal. ***(PR)***

FOA's latest production feature 'The Miracle Worker'

All Friends of the Arts members and friends are being invited to watch their latest performance, *The Miracle Worker*, a moving story of Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan, this next weekend, Jan. 20 and 21 at 7pm and Jan. 22 at 3pm. All shows will be at the MHS Dolphin Theater (Bldg. T). Tickets cost $12 for FOA members,$15 for non-member adults and $8 for students and children over 4. Contact Frank Gibson at 287-7476 or flgibson@yahoo.com for tickets and reservations. ***(PR)***

ASNMC to host student assembly on Jan. 14

The Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, the student government body, is inviting all NMC students and their families and friends to attend a student assembly this Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, at the field area in front of the NMC Gymnasium. The assembly will be held from 9am to 12:30pm.

Participants of the assembly will hear from inspirational speakers, including civil rights advocate Dr. Amos Brown, and learn how to get involved in NMC activities. In addition, there will be giveaways given throughout the event and free refreshments will be served. For more information, contact ASNMC president Lawrence Camacho at 788-3771 or by email at asnmc@nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

Air Force training on Farallon de Mendinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Mendinilla on Jan. 13, from 8am to 3pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Mendinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(USN)***

First aid/CPR/AED training dates

- Adult CPR/AED: Jan. 14, Saturday, 8am-11am
- First Aid: Jan. 14, Saturday, 1pm-4pm
- Adult First Aid/CPR/AED: Jan. 21, Saturday, 8am-1pm
- Adult CPR/AED, Jan. 24, Tuesday, 6pm-9pm
- First Aid: Jan. 25, Wednesday, 6pm-9pm

Contact the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter at 234-3459 to register. To learn more, visit www.redcross.org/training. ***(ARC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 18th birthday to Anthony McClaude Lizama Leon Guerrero! Shoutout comes from Vincent Klyde and Tindin Terence.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 13, 1999

CPA, governor discuss impact of port fees hike

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday told the ports authority to carefully weigh proposals seeking to increase landing fees as a way of raising funds to meet its multi-million bond obligation in fear the move would further reduce flights to CNMI. Officials of the Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday met with the governor to brief him on the worsening financial situation confronting the agency, and apparently to lobby support for the plan to hike landing fees this year and seaport rates and charges in year 2000 amid opposition from the tourism office. The Marianas Visitors Authority had openly opposed the planned increase on the grounds that the proposal would further thin tourist arrivals, which have been dropping at double-digit levels since last year.

CNMI, Guam plan tie-up in tourism

While both the Northern Marianas and Guam are seeking for a bigger market share in Japan, the Marianas Visitors Authority is exploring ways on how it can work closely with Guam Visitors Bureau in promoting the Micronesian region. GVB has raised the possibility of working with MVA in holding a regional promotion of Micronesia during the World Travel Fair in Tokyo in November. MVA board chair Dave M. Sablan noted the need for the agency to make a decision on which areas both agencies can work together as GVB has shown keen interest in cooperating with CNMI tourism officials.

Jan. 13, 2000

Federal Court orders release of 2 'asylum seekers'

Two Chinese nationals under detention by CNMI authorities have sought a temporary restraining order from the federal court to free them from jail following alleged violations of an earlier court order by local officials in connection with their asylum petitions. Rui Liang and Liao Da Nian won minor relief after District Court Judge Alex R. Munson agreed to hear their emergency motion for TRO and to summon Labor and Immigration Sec. Mark Zachares and DOLI legal counsel Robert Goldberg to show cause for possible contempt of court. The hearing date is set on Jan. 21 and the defendants, who include the CNMI and U.S. governments, have until Jan. 18 to file their respond to the plaintiffs' motion, according to Judge Munson's ruling.

Manibusan: DOLI violated deal with guest worker

Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan yesterday ruled that the CNMI government has violated the non-prosecution agreement it entered into with Russian national Oxana A. Galkina when it filed a criminal case against her for allegedly working in the CNMI without legal papers. In dismissing the case against her with prejudice, Judge Manibusan said Galkina expected to leave the CNMI and come back without restrictions. Her failure to leave is not a breach of the non-prosecution agreement. In fact, her testimony was instrumental in the conviction of two labor violators. "The government has an obligation to ensure fairness throughout the criminal process. There is more at stake than just the liberty of the defendant. At stake is the honor of the government and the public confidence in the fair and efficient administration of justice," Manibusan said.

Jan. 13, 2003

HSBC sues to collect $300K debt

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. has sued a company and its owners to collect on a debt amounting close to $300,000. The bank also sought the foreclosure of two leasehold mortgages executed by Aby K.O. Leung and Alice Yuk Mui Cheung, owners of the Aby & Alice International Inc., to secure their loan. HSBC lawyer Robert Goldberg asked the court that an order be issued authorizing the Department of Public Safety commissioner or a private auctioneer to sell the properties in a public bidding.

NMC offers sign language program

A new Sign Language Interpreting Certificate Program is now being offered at the Northern Marianas College, consisting of seven courses, that are designed to train interpreters for the young deaf and hard-of-hearing children in the CNMI. According to a statement by the college, the sign language courses are 4 credits each and require a great deal of work, but are also a lot of fun. The courses offered through the Department of Languages, Literature and Communications, include Beginning Sign Language I, Beginning Sign Language II, Intermediate Sign Language I, Introduction to Exceptional Individuals, Educational Practices in Special Education, Introduction to Interpreting, and Educational Interpreting.

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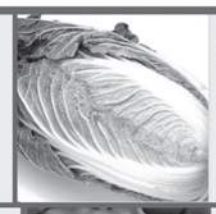

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Volume XXII, Issue No. 10

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A #$%& good reason to curse

Today the *Chicago Tribune* editorial page endorses swearing. Loudly. (We endorse swearing loudly, that is; our endorsement itself is sotto voce.)

Oops. Sorry, we forgot to mention one condition: Go ahead and scream that curse…to relieve physical pain.

British researchers report in the Journal of Pain (no, we didn't make that up) that cursing can help many people better tolerate pain. Doctors call it "stress-induced analgesia."

The researchers at Keele University in England asked subjects to submerge their hands in ice water. Those who swore repeatedly were able to keep their hands in the water for an average of 40 seconds longer than those who merely shouted a non-swear word, the study found.

So why does profanity work better than "fudge"? Possibly by provoking an emotional response—aggression, fear or anger—that helps mask or mute pain:

"Our hypothesis is that by swearing, the speaker experiences an emotional response due to breaking a taboo, and the emotional response is sufficient to set off the fight or flight response, which includes an adrenaline surge, increased heart rate and increased pain tolerance," the lead researcher, psychology lecturer Richard Stephens, tells us.

This is great news. The next time your big toe unexpectedly meets the doorjamb, or you slice your finger instead of the bagel, research suggests you've got a fine excuse to blurt out a familiar four-letter word that is not ouch.

But here's the latest twist in the research: Those who curse often and regularly—60 times a day, as described by researchers—don't get as much pain relief benefit.

About those people cursing more than 60 times a day … Sure, the modern newsroom is not a hushed cathedral of politesse. But we're also mindful that profanity, like flattery, loses its potency after repeated use.

Swearing a lot is like smoking: You may think it's cool, but it's not. Those who relish a carefully crafted expletive know that less is more.

In a 2006 Associated Press-Ipsos poll, about two-thirds of respondents said they think people curse more today than they did 20 years ago.

The kicker: 87 percent of those surveyed said it bothers them when others swear, including 36 percent who said it bothers them a lot. Keep that in mind, particularly when you're on the job. And when you're within earshot of anyone young enough to emulate you.

That poll squares with our general notion that swearing is best done in extreme moderation. (Believe it or not, one in five respondents said they don't curse at all. So far, we have not had the pleasure of meeting any of them.)

For curse connoisseurs, there's a twisted gift: the Periodic Table of Swearing, patterned after the familiar periodic table of the elements. Except on this table (see moderntoss.com) profanities are arranged from lightest to heaviest.

The creators, cartoonists Jon Link and Mick Bunnage, advise that those on the heavier end of the spectrum "should be used sparingly like chili sauce or raisins."

Darn right about that.

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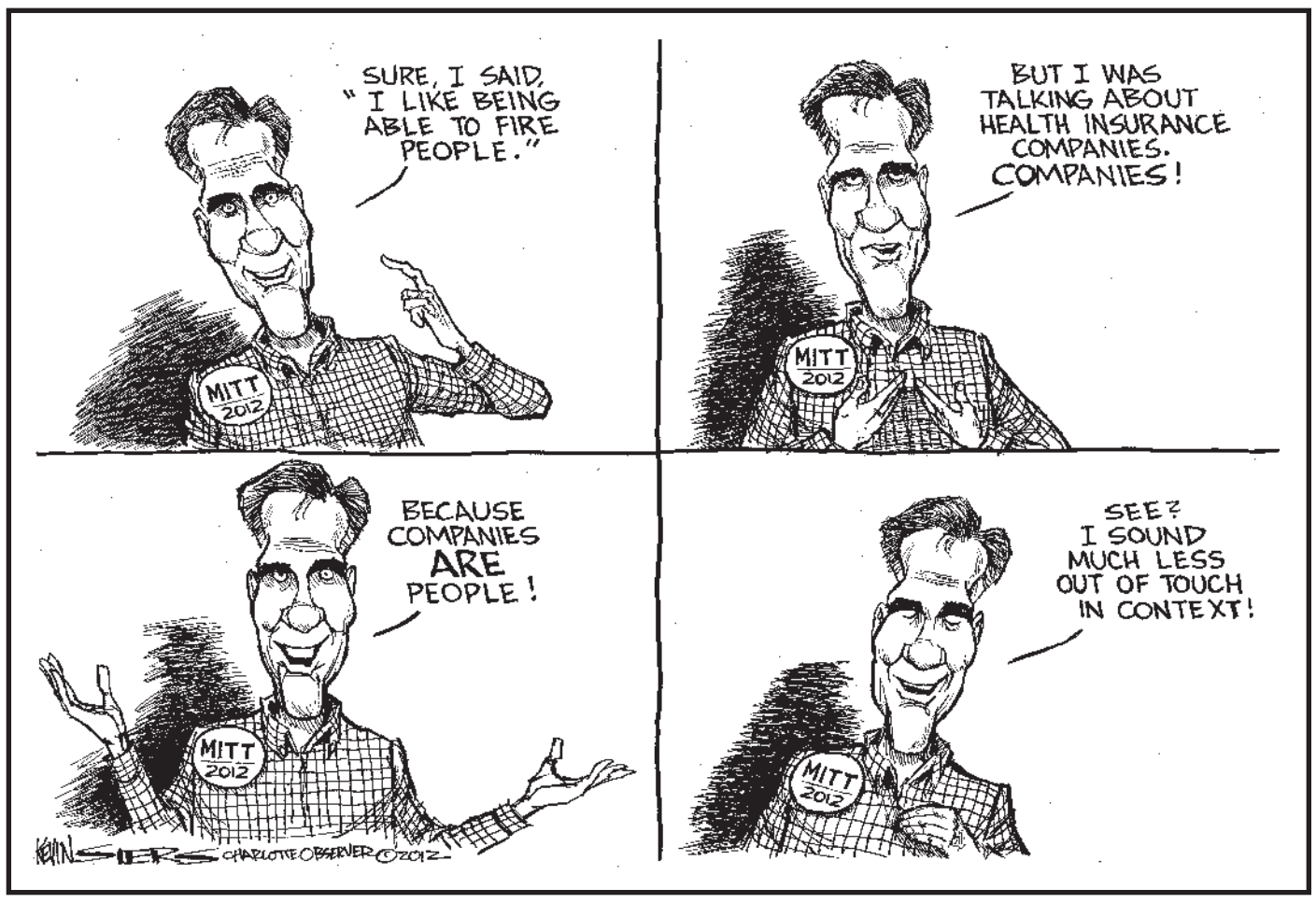
SURE, I SAID, "I LIKE BEING ABLE TO FIRE PEOPLE."
BUT I WAS TALKING ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES. COMPANIES!
BECAUSE COMPANIES ARE PEOPLE!
SEE? I SOUND MUCH LESS OUT OF TOUCH IN CONTEXT!
MITT 2012
KEVIN SIERS CHARLOTTE OBSERVER ©2012

Freedom in silence

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Our title could very well be one of Simon and Garfunkel's favored songs, *The Sound of Silence,* which to those of my generation was made famous in the film, *The Graduate.*

We are not promoting an old film, or an old song. We are entering one of our revered methods of focusing, centering, *via negativa* (among old monastics), the fructification of silence. Or the art of doing nothing! Corollary to silence is active listening, paying attention to sounds, from within and without.

Our marathon reflections this past three weeks, some of which made it to the pages of this paper, constituted our state of consciousness this ending of a year as we listened to its closing toll and the beginning of chimes in the new one. Our heart being thoroughly and unapologetically American, and our mind, a *glocalis* in China, we were also bi-located and multi-situated.

America is in the Heart is an autobiographical novel of a Filipino-American in 1946. Our affinity to Carlos Bulosan stems from his origins from the same region in *Manong* Philippines (Ilocano) where I grew up, and in his conviction that the America of his experience is not in ideological revolution or constitutional refinement but on the freedom-loving heartthrobs of those who labored beside him in the plantations and the canneries, kitchens and labor union lines, of the Pacific shores.

He is an older brother in time, but a comrade-in-heart forever; he struggled on the dance floors of California where it was frowned upon for a Filipino to dance with a Caucasian. I married one in '67 shortly after the Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional to make race a condition for licensing a marriage.

Though commissioned to write an essay on *Freedom from Want* in the Saturday *Evening Post* series on FDR's articulated Four Freedoms in 1941 in a State of the Union address, he was blacklisted by the FBI for his social activism later, and found himself wanting of employment, and wallowed instead in the debilitating effect of alcoholism that took its toll on his fragile health.

Ironically, FDR's freedoms (1) of speech and expression, (2) of worship, (3) from want, and (4) from fear, have since been used and abused by subsequent administrations. Bulosan found himself muzzled by authorities on freedom of speech and expression. Carlos' memory comes to us at this time because some of our expressed sentiments against Uncle Sam's policies are viewed as un-American; that I make a whipping boy of the old Uncle's military escapades and that I must desist, particularly given the large number of veterans in the Marianas.

What I have written and what has been received are, of course, two different matters. I explain comments I made and wrote in Manila during the Marcos era that a critique on a policy is not a blanket condemnation of a whole administration. The United States is not a monolithic structure, and training Peace Corps volunteers in the Philippines in the '80s, we pointed out various voices of: (1) the State Department's Embassy, (2) Defense's military bases for the Air Force's Clark and the Navy's Subic, (3) the Chamber of Commerce's Makati ghettos, (4) the corps of educators that propagated the language and the culture of England and America, (5) the Roman Catholic and Protestant missionary network of forked tongue, (6) the media including the propaganda arm of the USIS/VOA, in various levels of sensationalism and myth-making, and (7) the U.S. Peace Corps, at the time, with its supporting disestablishment counter-culture of America's young.

The diversity in the United States is its strength, *e pluribus unum.* Of late, we commented on the widespread implications of our freedom from fear, or what is now referred to as the "homeland security freedom," with more than half of the discretionary budget going into defense, particularly when married to the current strategy of preemptive option that we use when we want to eliminate someone we do not agree with, using sophisticated robotics like drones. But we have not spared anyone, of fault or praise, of the above seven categories.

FDR himself went against his own speech, proclaiming that as a future policy, we might look toward massive disarmament as a goal. But in 1941, he urged for the massive production of arms, ironically invoking the fear of the "foreign peril" as a rationale. To the democracies, he said: "We shall send you in ever increasing numbers, ships, planes, tank, guns." But then, his guys turned off the oil spigot on Japan and Dec. 8 came; thus making the expressed intent operational.

For now, we enter that stage in our journey when we appropriate "nothingness" as our mode of being and in the depth of silence, we shall find home. Lao-tsu of old said:

We join spokes together in a wheel,
but it is the center hole
that makes the wagon move.

We shape the clay into a pot,
but it is the emptiness inside
that holds whatever we want.

We hammer wood for a house,
but it is the inner space
that makes it livable.

We work with being,
But non-being is what we use.

In Silence, we now begin.

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Free stuff: Some Android apps

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

I don't lean too heavy on the tech angle these days. That's for two reasons. On the unhappy side of things, most of Saipan's pockets aren't deep enough to chase expensive gadgets. And on the happy side of things, tech seemed to hit a sweet spot a few years ago and many of us are perfectly happy using our old equipment, especially since the new stuff is so often obnoxious these days. But I can't entirely ignore the outside world, and I did jump onto the tablet bandwagon. For those of you who are joining me in the leap, I'm going to mention some highly useful free stuff I found.

The free stuff I'm referring to is commonly called "apps." That's the hip diminutive for "applications," which itself is just another way of saying "programs."

The tablet world, incidentally, is generally split between Apple's highly popular iPad, up against a slew of competitors most of which are using various forms of the Android operating system. The iPad is the gold standard in tablets, but I'm going to inevitably destroy anything I haul around, so I went the Android route because of some cheap prices. I'm not going to belabor the distinctions between various versions of Android here, but the enthusiasts and experts (I'm neither) are very mindful of such things.

Unlike the tamer and tidier world of iPad apps, Android apps can dwell in the Wild West, where it can take trial and error to ascertain if a given app will work on a given tablet. The apps I use were all downloaded from Google's application "Market," using the tablet itself to connect to the Market via the Internet. I've read that some tablets don't provide a pipeline to the Market, so this is one thing I'd want to research before buying a tablet.

Many apps offer free versions and paid versions. I'm only writing about the free versions here, though I'll soon be upgrading to their paid counterparts in certain cases. Many, but not all, of the free apps I've seen place a little advertisement on the tablet screen when online. For paid Android apps, from what I've seen prices seem to generally run from about $1 up to $10 or so.

OK, first things first: When I first booted up my shiny new tablet, I couldn't figure out how the files were organized, or even where they were. This drove me bonkers. Whereupon I found my first utility app, Astro File Manager. Astro allowed me to navigate the files, copy them, delete them, organize them, back them up to removable media, and so on. I've since set up a few tablets and Astro was the first thing I wanted to install.

Another nice app is Note Everything, which turns my tablet into a sketchpad. This is very handy for jotting down quick notes. I'm afflicted with the writers' burden of being jolted awake by essay ideas at odd hours. My tablet is now the perfect notepad for these occasions, since I can use it without having to turn on a lamp, and since I don't have to then keep track of little scraps of paper.

And yet another useful app is Simple Spreadsheet. Spreadsheets have an infinite amount of uses, of course. One obvious tactic for Saipan's tourism industry is to use tablets to calculate exchange rates. If a manager is willing to invest five minutes in making a template, then presto, any retail or hotel clerk can easily compute exchange rates and can show a customer how prices were derived.

Speaking of tourists, there are, as you can imagine, various language translation apps out there, including Google Translate. This accepts handwritten characters, so if you're dealing with exotic languages you can just scribble on the tablet screen itself and the program digests them.

But that's not the final say in the language realm. The abundance of dual-language electronic dictionaries for tablets is amazing. I'm incapable of traveling with a physical dictionary: I never find the small ones useful enough to use, and I never find the useful ones small enough to pack. Mercifully, the tablet now makes that entire conundrum obsolete. As for Chinese, I've found the Hanping dictionary app to be impressive, and this is one case where I am certainly going to upgrade to the paid version.

On a more general note, I've found that the Dolphin Web browser and the Winamp music player are also handy apps.

As for Saipan's situation, although the consumer sector is watching its pennies, there are probably a lot of ways that the business realm can wring productivity out of tablet technology, so maybe that's what will set the pace locally.

NMI's bleak economic future

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The combined pile of deficit spending, a huge cumulative deficit, exacerbated by heavy loss in revenue streams in recent past forces the question: What's the severity of the impending economic crash when these factors annihilate every penny in the local coffers? More of a bleak future, isn't it?

Part of the larger problem is the 100-year recession that drags most economies of scale to the abyss of loss of investments. The NMI wasn't spared the net effect of global economic decline. On a narrow scale, this issue triggers a recession of the worse order never before seen in our developmental history. Or is it more of a depression? When would recovery return?

Even with recovery, it may still require cuts in services in order for private industries to rebound. In the process, those without jobs are more than likely to remain jobless. Those with jobs would have to take salary cuts from companies until they are back on their feet. But such condition is more of the latter altogether.

The CNMI's worsening economic decline was further fueled by its discriminatory land policy, a suspect legal system that doesn't provide equal protection for all folks—citizens and those legally situated, including investors; bigotry; tax-and-chase policies against private industries; uncertainty wrought by federal policies that literally annihilated the local economy; difficult labor policies; and, high utility costs, among major disincentives.

These disincentives have forced major decline in direly needed revenues. It paralyzes the ability of local government to pay its bloated payroll, gobbling the balance usually earmarked for public services. Though austerity was instituted, it still incurred some $25 million in deficit spending last fiscal year, a tale of the severity of revenue decline.

Synthetic truth about health

Certain measures were also undertaken to cut expenses, i.e., turning CHC into a health corporation that instantly inherited a $15 million deficit. It was only appropriated $5 million for this fiscal year. The intent is exclusion from the CNMI budget and told to go "sink or swim."

But isn't health one of three essential services you can't leave to fend for itself without appropriate lead time? Can the administration superficially absolve itself from such fiduciary responsibility? I didn't know it also specializes in synthetic truth.

There's CUC who was given the green light to borrow some $10 million to fix certain EPA violations or suffer further fines. The new money would hopefully allow it to maintain the utility system. Its surcharge fee, though, is partly responsible for the closure of businesses that can't fathom the horrendous cost of utilities. More businesses are marching toward Debt Cliff and Closure!

It's troubling that many of us would be standing in the presence of fiery magma that torches everything in its way. As dizzying as it may be, we have our work cut out for us. Deficit spending isn't the answer either. Must cut and cap spending, now!

■■■

Investors flock to Sunshine State

As we rail against the drain of investments from investors who've fled the islands, I salivate at huge investments flocking and descending on Florida State. "The world recognizes Miami as a major global gateway city—one that is key to economic growth for its southern and, now, even its eastern neighbors," according to Rudy Martin, editor of *Emerging Market Winners*, an investment magazine out of Florida.

Said Martin, "Malaysian gambling company Genting unveiled a $3 billion master plan for a huge destination resort project right here in the United States. Genting wants to build what could be the world's largest casino on prime land along Miami's waterfront. The plans are already in motion, as the company has already spent about $450 million on real estate, pledged to help rebuild part of an interstate highway and hired 23 lobbyists to press for legalizing casinos in Florida.

"Genting's cash-rich status gives it an advantage over many overburdened U.S. casino operators, who embarked on building sprees or leveraged buyouts just as the casino market in the U.S. began to sour. The company, which grew out of a single casino in Malaysia, has holdings in a range of industries and made a reported $3.4 billion profit last year on $15 billion in revenue.

"In Genting's case, the land is purchased, so plans are on track to keep moving forward—even if the casino gambling battle doesn't go exactly according to plan. The company bought prime downtown real estate at a price that is attractive for a long-term investor in this gateway city; it may simply have to adjust its timetable for developing the property to its own specifications.

"So, why Miami and not, say, destinations like Las Vegas or Atlantic City where gambling is already legal? Well for Genting, it also owns 50 percent of Norwegian Cruise Lines, which operates out of the Port of Miami. So, it already has a vested interest in the area and would benefit from increased tourism, particularly from emerging-market travelers with money to spend."

So the sunshine state turns into the focus and center of investments not only from her southern neighbors, but East Asia and other countries as well. Here's what it expects from all over the global village: Investments in Florida by Country in commercial real estate in the millions of dollars: Malaysia, $252.25M; Canada, $235M; Germany, $172M; Israel, $89.21M; UK, $77M; Mexico, $49.95M; Switzerland, $48.50; Argentina, $14.10M; Hong Kong, $13.10M; Total: $951.15M.

Letters to the Editor

Outside looking in

The United States of America is a great nation. Great in its ambition to continually improve. Driven by a "don't-waste-time" attitude. Keeping the time and clock firmly within one's awareness. At the same time, to be American is to also be aware of how people are wonderfully different and how they accept each other for those differences, and ultimately treat each other with dignity and respect (sometimes much easier said than done).

Truth be told, I am a person looking in from the outside, in the sense that I am Yapese and a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia. From my perspective, living in America most of my life, countless Americans of all walks of life and abilities exemplify this dual-sided, ying yang way of being independent, and at the same time, being compassionate toward each other. From Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation to women's voting rights to the Civil Rights Act and now the Americans with Disabilities Act, Americans continue to progress toward bettering the world by seeing injustice, acknowledging the wrong, and finally doing something about it. This realization of the dualism in being American goes hand in hand with the island style of living here where we are all together as one family at one fiesta and, although times are hard, we are harder!

As part of a disability rights organization, the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. a.k.a. NMPASI, I see great things in 2012 for our people with disabilities because of this attitude to progress. So with the welcoming of 2012, we should also ask ourselves, as U.S. and non-U.S. citizens, how we in our own way can help better our islands that we call home. Sometimes with an outside perspective, we can step back and see what we have been missing, but has been here all along. Happy new year, CNMI!

Thomas Thornburgh
Projects Specialist, NMPASI

Interisland transportation

Currently, the only mode of transportation between Saipan to Tinian and Rota to Guam is by airplane. Airline ticket prices to travel between the islands are costly and discourage people from traveling.

There is the possibility of shipping companies that service these islands to start transporting passengers. This would benefit many. Tourism would improve for Rota and Tinian and shipping companies can increase revenue. Rota is the perfect nearby getaway from Guam residents who want to escape from the traffic and noise.

The CNMI needs affordable sea transportation between the islands. The Tinian Dynasty ferry helped Tinian's tourism by providing Saipan residents an affordable mode of transportation. Now the only option is costly air travel.

Jesse Torres
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

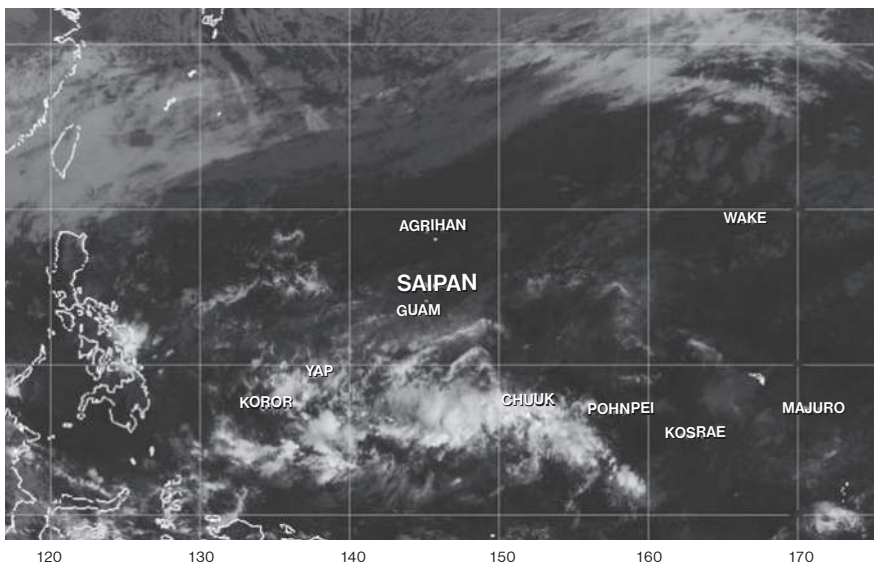
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲83	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲70	▼64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼18
Hong Kong	Showers	▲64	▼61
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼67
London	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74	▼44
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼57
New York	Ice	▲42	▼27
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼38
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲41	▼31
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲45	▼32
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼39
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼35
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67	▼43
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲35	▼22
Tokyo	Sunny	▲48	▼34
Washington, DC	Windy	▲39	▼30

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 20N180 to 18N159E to 7N134E. Patchy cloudiness and scattered light showers exist along and up to 300 miles north of the shear line east of 9N142E. This area includes Guam. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found farther west along the shear line between Koror and Yap between 7N and 11N from 134E to 138E. A cold front runs southwestward from 25N152E to beyond 130E at 22N. Extensive low cloud cover and scattered showers are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. A near equatorial trough running from EQ141E northwestward to beyond 5N130E is producing scattered showers south of Koror between 3N and 5N from 130E to 138E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Yap and Koror and over Chuuk within 130 miles of a line from 4N138E to 7N150E to 1N161E. Scattered showers are also located west and south of Majuro within 125 miles of a line from 9N165E to 4N169E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:10 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
5:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:44 PM	9:24 AM
Saturday	10:39 PM	10:06 AM
Sunday	11:36 PM	10:50 AM
Monday		11:35 AM
Tuesday	12:34 AM	12:24 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Zoning OKs construction of Susupe church

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning Board approved Wednesday the conditional use application of a faith-based organization that wants to open a church in Susupe.

The Mission Connection Ministry plans to run a church on two lots located behind the Music And store on Beach Road. The area is currently zoned as village residential.

Felipe Atalig, father of Juan B. Atalig who owns the land where the proposed church will be operated, represented the applicant during Wednesday's public hearing.

Acting Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro recommended that the application be approved provided that the Mission Connection Ministry follows some conditions: The applicant is required to improve their proposed parking areas and revise the plan in such a way that it would allow for a walkway between the church and the parking area.

"The reason for the walkway is to allow safe movement of pedestrians from the church to the parking area and vice versa," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune*.

Zoning initially rejected the proposal due to the lack of a walkway.

The Mission Connection Ministry is also required to demolish a small wall measuring about six feet wide that serves as a barrier dividing the church and the parking lot. Demolishing the wall would pave the way for the construction of the walkway.

Ogumoro also noted that the applicant should conform with the requirements of Section 1204 of the zoning law, which refers to the non-conforming structure use.

"If the applicant does not fulfill these conditions, no permit will be issued," said Ogumoro.

All board members present at the public hearing unanimously approved the application.

4 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the beaches adjacent to the Palms Resort, San Roque School, DPW Channel Bridge, and Samoa Housing and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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Fund advises members of proposed changes to regs

The NMI Retirement Fund wishes to advise its membership of several important proposed amendments to the Fund's regulations. These amendments are intended to improve the operational efficiency of the Fund for the benefit of all members. The amendments will impact the time and method the Fund pays benefits; the rate of interest paid and charged by the Fund; and clarify the transition provisions that phase out early retirement at full pay for Class I members under the age 62. Those who wish to comment to these proposed amendments may do so via letter or email to the Retirement Fund.

Benefit payments: Members should be advised that the Fund will no longer process hardship or any other requests for early disbursement of benefit payments. Additionally, members must make arrangements and provide information necessary for the Fund to make payment by direct deposit/ACH into their bank accounts. After April 1, 2012, the Fund will no longer issue benefit payments by check (other than one time lump sum payments). Members are encouraged to provide the Fund with details of their bank accounts well before the March 1, 2012, deadline to avoid missing a benefit payday. Please contact the Fund to obtain the necessary forms.

Interest: Interest on contributions refunded to members will now be paid at the average rate offered on saving accounts by banks in the CNMI each year. Interest paid by members on repayment of refunded contributions will be the greater of the Fund's average five-year rate of return or the actuarially determined rate. For purposes of a member's payment of retroactive contributions and class difference equivalence, the member is required to pay interest at a rate of 5 percent annum.

Early retirement: To take advantage of the previous early retirement scheme, and pay the class difference for full retirement, a Class I member must retire on or before June 14, 2012. After June 14, 2012, Class I members retiring before age 62 will be subject to a 3-percent per year reduction in benefit for each year or pro-rata for a partial year of age less than age 62. ***(NMIRF)***

Broader benefits for GHI *members*

The Northern Mariana Islands Government Group Health Insurance program wishes to advise its membership of several important changes to its regulations to provide health insurance benefits consistent with those required by the U.S. Affordable Care Act.

GHLI's regulations now specify that for those enrolled in the GHI, there will be no annual limits, no lifetime limits, and children can be covered up to age 26, despite being married, having a job, having other insurance available or other factors that previously precluded them being "dependents." A number of Commonwealth government employees have inquired about extended coverage for their dependents who previously would not have been eligible for coverage. The board is pleased to provide these broadened benefits in response to these inquiries, available from Jan 1, 2012. ***(NMIRF)***

Govt's life insurance carrier contract renewed for a year

The Fitial administration has renewed the contract of Individual Assurance Co., the life insurance carrier for government employees, for another year or until January 2013, according to press secretary Angel Demapan and Retirement Fund administrator Richard Villagomez yesterday.

Demapan, however, emphasized that this renewal is on a month-to-month extension basis, which could be changed anytime during the period covered. "Renewal is for one year but on a month-to-month basis. This just means that the agreement may be adjusted or altered if necessary during the one-year period," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Under the renewal terms, there will be no changes to the premiums or coverage.

The AIC contract expired in December. This renewal serves as the fourth extension.

The NMI Retirement Fund only serves as the administrator of the program. It is owned by the government and negotiations on renewal and other issues are always between the carrier and the administration.

Saipan Tribune learned that life insurance coverage for government employees was supposed to expire in August 2010 but this was later extended for several months until the government finally decided to go into a long-term agreement with AIC. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday to Eleanor Dela Cruz-Naputi! May this year bring with it all the success and fulfillment your heart desires. Wishing you all the great things in life, hope this day will bring you an extra share of all that makes you happiest! From your friends at Hardt Eye Clinic.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Questions raised on bills that seek to help the Fund

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another Senate initiative and a House bill went under the microscope on Wednesday as part of an ongoing special House review of measures that seek to help the NMI Retirement Fund—most concerns having to do with their constitutionality and practicality.

The Senate-amended House Bill 17-226, which originally allows active members to "withdraw" their contributions from the Fund without a need to resign from government and now allows the same members to instead "roll over" their contributions to the defined contribution plan, was questioned mostly for its legality and constitutionality.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), chair of the House Special Committee on Retirement Fund Issues, and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) separately said that while parties involved support the intent of the latest version of HB 17-226 to help prolong the Fund's lifespan, the Senate's multiple amendments that include a new revenue-generating provision may be unconstitutional.

Santos and Sablan said the Constitution requires all revenue-generating bills to originate from the House.

Retirement Fund administrator Richard Villagomez and other Fund officials support the intent of the Senate-amended HB 17-226 to help the Fund, but yielded to constitutionality concerns. The Fund supports it primarily because the Senate has put in a funding mechanism—tax rebate cuts.

Santos and Sablan said the suggestion is for the Senate-amended HB 17-226 to be introduced in its entirety as a new House bill to address constitutionality questions. Santos said the special committee will take this into consideration when preparing a report and recommendation to the full House.

Senate Legislative Initiative 17-15, meanwhile, which seeks a constitutional amendment to require the government to set aside 25 percent of its revenues to pay for the government's employer contribution to the Fund, was also criticized mostly for its impracticality.

Sablan said in his personal view, the initiative is "impractical."

The 25 percent is on top of what's currently paid to the Fund in employer contribution.

Sablan cited, for example, that for a $102 million budget, $25 million-plus will be set aside for the Fund, leaving all other government programs and activities, as well as personnel spending, with only $75 million.

Santos said next week's meeting will focus on a pending pension obligation bond measure to help the Fund.

NMC's Upward Bound program helps students succeed in college

For almost 30 years, the Northern Marianas College's Upward Bound program has helped thousands of CNMI students from disadvantaged backgrounds to prepare for and succeed in college. For NMC alumnus and recent University of Arizona graduate Semona Igama, participating in the program helped her achieve her educational goals.

"One day I decided I wanted to go to college," said Igama. "I traded my senior year to jump start my college career at the Northern Marianas College."

Igama

The Upward Bound program is a federally funded program under the U.S. Department of Education that primarily serves high school students from low-income families along with high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree.

With assistance from the Upward Bound program, Igama enrolled in courses at NMC to pursue an associate's degree in Liberal Arts while she was still attending Marianas High School.

"As a first generation, low income student, this was the most beneficial opportunity given to me and especially my family," said Igama. She later graduated from MHS in 2006 and then from NMC in 2008.

"I could not have done it by myself though. I had the Upward Bound program to thank for the educational support that motivated me to pursue higher education," said Igama.

The "educational support" the Upward Bound program has been providing students include instruction in a variety of subjects; academic, financial, and personal counseling; tutorial and mentoring services; and assistance with college admission forms and placement tests. In addition, the program provides students with other activities ranging from summer enrichment programs for mathematics and science to volunteering.

After graduating from NMC, Igama attended the University of Arizona where she recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in Microbiology. She now plans to pursue becoming a physician and endeavors to learn more about the medical field at the Commonwealth Health Corp. on Saipan.

"We are very proud of Semona and all her accomplishments," said Upward Bound program director Marian C. Tudela. "We are also glad to have her as a volunteer for the Upward Bound program."

Tudela added "She's not only a great example of how the program has benefited the CNMI's students over the years but an inspiration for our students that they can accomplish anything they want if they work hard and never give up."

For more information about the Upward Bound program, visit the Upward Bound office at the NMC As Terlaje campus or contact Marian C. Tudela at 234-5498 Ext. 1278. ***(NMC)***

MEETING NOTICE

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.** at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Swearing In of New Board Members
   3. Roll Call
   4. Adoption of Agenda
   5. Adoption of Minutes – October 20, 2011
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. **Finance**
   2. **Personnel**
4) **Old Business**
5) **New Business**
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

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Business

Fed survey shows economy ended 2011 with strength

WASHINGTON (AP)—The final weeks of 2011 were among the economy's strongest as Americans shopped and traveled more, ending the year with a shot of optimism for 2012.

That's the bright picture the Federal Reserve sketched in a survey released Wednesday. It said all but one of its 12 banking districts experienced some growth from late November through the end of the year.

Some sectors of the economy, notably housing, remain weak, the Fed said. But consumers spent more freely. Factories made more goods. Americans stepped up travel. And the auto industry enjoyed its best stretch of the year.

Economists noted greater confidence in the tone of the report. For example, the central bank described auto manufacturing as "vibrant" in several districts. Consumer spending was deemed "robust" in the Dallas region.

"It has been quite a while since we have seen the Fed use words like vibrant and robust to describe any part of the economy," said Brian Bethune, an economics professor at Amherst College. "I think one of the things driving the stronger language is that things are better than the Fed had been expecting."

The one district that didn't experience growth was Richmond, Va., although even there, the Fed said economic activity either "flattened or improved slightly."

The report comes just six months after the economy nearly stalled under the weight of high food and gas prices and supply disruptions from Japan that slowed U.S. manufacturing.

The economy and the job market have both improved since then. And December may end up being the strongest month of 2011. Employers added 200,000 jobs. And the unemployment rate fell to 8.5 percent—the lowest rate in nearly three years.

"The Fed's report Wednesday confirms what everyone else has been seeing in the economic data from retail sales to auto sales and manufacturing—activity is improving," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Obama aims to reward businesses that invest in US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Flanked by business executives, President Barack Obama urged employers Wednesday to create jobs in the U.S. rather than ship them overseas and offered to propose tax incentives to help them.

"I'm incredibly optimistic about our prospects," Obama said about the economy after meeting with more than a dozen corporate and small business leaders whose firms have succeeded, to one degree or another, in bringing jobs back to the United States.

A day after his Republican adversaries competed in the New Hampshire primary, Obama sought to grab back the spotlight and underscore his focus on the economy by convening a high-profile White House forum on how to increase employment and stem the hundreds of thousands of jobs that have been sent overseas.

Obama did not mention any of his potential Republican challengers during his public remarks.

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NOTICE OF AUCTION
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Kagman III**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

LOT NO. 011 G 308, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 797 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 G 06, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4414, DATED DECEMBER 16, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$43,619.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Kagman III**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 011 G 1091, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 20, the original of which was recorded 09 Dec 93 as Document No. 93-4288 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan., the description therein being incorporated herein by reference, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$38,019.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Ignacio P. Omar and Maria C. Aldan (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 29, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 30, 1984, under Document No. 84-484 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 005 I 527, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 748 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2084/82, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 14232, DATED MAY 14, 1982, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$46,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$46,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Sadog Tasi,** Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

TRACT NUMBER 21899-2, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2086/81, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 12450, ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 1981, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$32,419.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Dandan**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

LOT NO. 010 K 05, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 892 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 010 K 01 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 87-2911 DATED AUGUST 19, 1987, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$42,219.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Mary Ann Q. Lizama ("Trustor"), on or about November 16, 1999, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 23, 1999, under Document No. 99-2775 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 649, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 795 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 13 DATED DECEMBER 1, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4181, DATED DECEMBER 3, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$58,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$58,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Nation

Romney rolls into SC—GOP nomination in sight?

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Mitt Romney swept into South Carolina on Wednesday in pursuit of a confirming victory in the race for the Republican presidential nomination, buoyed by a second straight electoral triumph, bulging campaign coffers and warm words from the state's preeminent practitioner of tea party politics.

"I don't want to be overconfident," said the Republican front-runner. But increasingly, he was talking about his plans for challenging President Barack Obama in the fall, not his primary foes of the moment.

Running out of time, his GOP rivals showed no sign of surrender.

Newt Gingrich welcomed Romney into the first Southern primary state with a fresh attack on his business career and a new television ad painting him as a flip-flopper on abortion. Said former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, "South Carolina is going to be different. It is wide open for anyone."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry drawled his way through a busy campaign day, displaying a Southern attribute that Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, could not hope to match.

But on the morning after a solid win in New Hampshire, Romney got help from two unlikely sources.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul, who ran second in New Hampshire, chastised Gingrich and Perry for criticizing the front-runner's experience as a venture capitalist whose firm acquired, slimmed down and then spun off existing companies, often earning large profits in the process.

"I just wonder whether they're totally ignorant of economics or whether they're willing to demagogue just with the hopes of getting a vote or two," he said, without mentioning anyone by name.

South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint echoed Paul's remarks, and declared, "I think Romney's going to win here. ... He's hitting a lot of hot buttons for me about balancing the budget, and frankly I'm a little concerned about the few Republicans who have criticized some of what I consider to be free market principles here."

DeMint has been lobbied heavily by several of the presidential contenders eager for his endorsement and has so far chosen to remain neutral. Still, the remarks by a man who has sometimes taken the tea party's side in clashes with the Republican establishment sent a clear signal that Romney was to be viewed as worthy of support.

The day's events marked the unofficial start of a 10-day campaign that includes a pair of televised debates, millions of dollars in television ads and the first competition of the year in a state with high unemployment, a major military presence and a large population of evangelicals.

Joblessness in South Carolina, at 9.9 percent, is almost as high as in Iowa (5.7 percent) and New Hampshire (5.2 percent) combined. By some estimates, as much as 60 percent of the primary electorate here is comprised of evangelicals.

Culturally and historically, the state has relatively little in common with either Iowa or New Hampshire.

Southwesterner Perry tried to emphasize a regional affinity.

"There wouldn't be a Texas without South Carolina," Perry said, referring to the Southern fighters who helped Texas gain independence from Mexico in the 1830s.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony Francis A. Benavente and Arlene Tina Lee Benavente (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 11, 2006, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 12, 2006, under Document No. 06-895 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 1155, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 900 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON DLS CHECK NO. 011 G. 23, DATED DECEMBER 09, 1993, RECORDED AT THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE AS FILE NO. 96-2566 ON OCTOBER 10, 1996 THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$68,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$68,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Kagman II**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 002 G 263, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, dated May 14, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$57,619.36.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Jacob S. Mendiola and Tricia Delphine Santos (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 12, 2006, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 28, 2006, under Document No. 06-3171 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 715, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 788 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 14 DATED DECEMBER 01, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4182, DATED DECEMBER 03, 1993.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$51,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$51,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Jose L. Castro and Margarita J. Castro (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 22, 1980, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 22, 1980, under Document No. 11179 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 017 D 27, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 900 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 4842, ON THE 11TH DAY OF September, 1975.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$81,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$81,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Sabino R. Laniyo and Lourdes O. Laniyo C/O Rosa O. Laniyo (collectively "Trustor"), on or about June 21, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 21, 1982, under Document No. 14765 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT 001 F 25 (FORMERLY BLOCK 9 LOT 1), AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 001 F 00 DATED FEBRUARY 17, 1971, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 829 SQUARE METERS.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$56,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$56,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Juana S. Crisostomo ("Trustor"), on or about October 12, 1994, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 1, 1994, under Document No. 94-2826 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 002 G 97, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 945 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 002 G 03 DATED MAY 31, 1989, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 90-1900, DATED MAY 14, 1990, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$41,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$41,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Conflict between rich, poor strongest in 24 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tensions between the rich and poor are increasing and at their most intense level in nearly a quarter-century, a new survey shows. Americans now see more social conflict over wealth inequality than over the hot-button topics of immigration, race relations and age.

The survey released Wednesday by the Pew Research Center highlights U.S. perceptions of the economic divide, an issue that has moved to the forefront in the 2012 presidential campaign amid stubbornly high unemployment, increasing poverty and protests by the Occupy movement.

The findings come as voters in New Hampshire's primary Tuesday night made clear that the economy was the issue that mattered most to them. In the end, they chose Mitt Romney by a large margin, even as Republican rivals already gearing up for more competitive contests in South Carolina and elsewhere had stepped up populist attacks on him as a heartless corporate raider who slashed jobs.

President Barack Obama has been promoting a campaign message of middle-class opportunity, calling for higher taxes on the very rich and successfully pushing a two-month extension of a payroll tax cut.

The Pew survey shows that younger adults, Democrats and African-Americans remained the most likely as in previous years to cite the existence of strong disagreements between rich and poor. But in the last two years, three important swing groups—whites, middle-income Americans and political independents—registered some of the biggest increases in those who now also hold this view.

As a result, majorities of each political party and ideology all agree that serious disputes exist between Americans at the top and bottom of the economic ladder.

Still, while overall U.S. awareness of class conflict has grown significantly in recent years, public attitudes toward wealthy Americans remain largely unchanged.

For instance, about 46 percent of Americans hold a disapproving view that rich people are wealthy because they were fortunate enough to be born into money or have the right connections. But almost as many people—43 percent—say wealthy people are rich "mainly because of their own hard work, ambition or education."

That suggests some people who see more conflict between the classes may believe that anger toward the rich is misdirected.

A recent Gallup survey also found that fewer than half of Americans said reducing the gap between rich and poor is "extremely" or "very important," compared with more than 8 in 10 who said policies to build economic growth should be a high priority for government.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,

vs.

DAVID O. SABLAN and BERNADITA M. SABLAN, Defendants.

Civil Action No. 03-0365B

NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants David O. Sablan and Bernadita M. Sablan in the following described, real property situated in San Antonio, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 004 I 05 (formerly Block 3, Lot 5), containing an area of 479 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 004 I 00, the original of which was registered March 1, 1971, as Document No. 715 at Land Registry, Saipan, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, January 20, 2012, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
   a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card[1]. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of David O. Sablan and Bernadita M. Sablan in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 2nd day of November 2011.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

[1] MasterCard and VISA only: a 2% processing fee will be charged on credit card payment(s).

ACROSS THE NATION

Marines probe video depicting urination on corpses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Marine Corps said Wednesday it is investigating a video depicting what appears to be four Marines urinating on the corpses of Taliban fighters. In a statement, the Marine Corps said it has not verified the origin or authenticity of the YouTube video. But it also said the actions portrayed are not consistent with Marine values. If verified the video could create a strong backlash in the Muslim world and beyond for the disrespectful actions it portrays. A defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss a sensitive aspect of the matter, said the case will be referred to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Navy's worldwide law enforcement organization.

Tiny frog claimed as world's smallest vertebrate

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A frog that can perch on the tip of your pinkie with room to spare has been claimed as the world's smallest vertebrate species, out-tinying a fish that got the title in 2006. But the discoverer of another weensy fish disputes the claim. A tempest in a thimble, some might say. An article Wednesday in the journal PLoS One named *Paedophryne amauensis* (pee-doh-FRY-nee AM-OW-en-sis) as the world's smallest animal with a spine. The adult frogs are about three-tenths of an inch long, and a millimeter or so smaller than a carp found on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The frogs are so small that Louisiana State University herpetologist and environmental biologist Christopher Austin had to enlarge close-up photos to describe them.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

he Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in **Garapan**, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

LOT NO. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st Day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$90,000.00.**

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012,** subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 4th day of January, 2012.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Jesus SN. Cabrera and Florida DLG. Cabrera (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 13, 1982, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 13, 1982, under Document No. 15700 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

TRACT NUMBER 21867-7, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 2,108 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 2025/78, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 7472, ON THE 26TH DAY OF JUNE, 1978.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$53,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$53,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Julie DLG. Villagomez ("Trustor"), on or about November 8, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 21, 2002, under Document No. 02-2419 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 842 CONTAINING AN AREA OF 767 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEYS OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 17 DATED DECEMBER 03, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4285, DATED DECEMBER 09, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **February 14, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$61,619.36**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **February 13, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than February 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$61,619.36** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2012.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Asia

NKorea keeps door open for food-nuke deal with US

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea signaled Wednesday it remains open to suspending uranium enrichment in exchange for U.S. food aid, a deal that appeared imminent before leader Kim Jong Il died last month.

The North complained that the United States had "drastically" changed the amount and kind of aid it would send, but said officials would wait and "see if the United States has a willingness to establish confidence" with North Korea—which observers saw as Pyongyang's precondition for making the food-for-uranium-suspension deal happen.

The North's statement offers an early look at how the government now led by Kim Jong Il's son, Kim Jong Un, will handle two of North Korea's most pressing issues: a long-running food crisis and years of international pressure to end its nuclear program.

"The North is saying it is willing to go ahead with nuclear steps if it gets the food aid it wants," said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea professor at Seoul's Dongguk University. "The North is telling the United States to provide a goodwill gesture. If Washington doesn't, Pyongyang is threatening it will go down its own path."

Some have feared Pyongyang may attempt to rally support around the younger Kim's rule with a nuclear or missile test or an act of aggression against South Korea, but Wednesday's statement from an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman in Pyongyang suggests it may instead choose to pursue an agreement that could be trumpeted as a diplomatic victory.

The United States said Wednesday that its conversations with North Korea were continuing but they have not resolved differences over the assessment of food needs and how to monitor any "nutritional assistance."

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland maintained the food issue was separate from negotiations over the North's nuclear program and said that to her knowledge, the U.S. has not had "strong new signals" from the North on either topic.

The Associated Press reported before Kim Jong Il's Dec. 17 death that the United States was poised to announce a significant donation of food aid to North Korea. That would have been followed within days by an agreement to suspend North Korea's uranium enrichment program, according to a broad outline of the emerging agreement made known to the AP by people close to the negotiations.

Discussions were suspended after Kim Jong Il's death, as the North turned inward for an official mourning period. Now Pyongyang looks to solidify Kim Jong Un's power as he extends the Kim family dynasty into a third generation.

U.S. officials have called possible food aid to North Korea "nutritional assistance," such as vitamin supplements, and have said they want to ensure such aid goes to the needy and not the military. North Korea, for its part, has reportedly demanded rice and other grains.

"I think you know where we are on nutritional assistance. We do not link this to politics. This is not something to be traded," Nuland told reporters.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan fires defense secretary in growing crisis

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister fired the defense secretary Wednesday in a dispute over a memo sent to Washington that has enraged the army, escalating a crisis pitting the civilian government against the powerful military leadership. The army warned darkly of "grievous consequences" as a result of the standoff, which is hampering U.S. efforts to rebuild shattered ties with the nuclear-armed nation that are needed to negotiate an end to the war in neighboring Afghanistan. The tensions have consumed the ruling elite in a country that is struggling to overcome economic turmoil and a bloody al-Qaida fueled insurgency.

Kim Jong Il's body to be permanently displayed

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea says late leader Kim Jong Il's body will be permanently laid in state in a memorial palace in the capital. Kim's body will be displayed at Pyongyang's Kumsusan Memorial Palace, where his father and North Korea founder Kim Il Sung's embalmed body has been lying since his death in 1994. Kim Jong Il's son and successor, Kim Jong Un, has been solidifying power since his father died of a heart attack on Dec. 17.

Woman's body in suitcase found at Manila's airport

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police are investigating a gruesome find at Manila international airport's parking lot: the body of a woman stuffed in a suitcase. A police officer at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport says the woman looks like a Filipino and appears to have been strangled to death before being crammed in a fetal position inside the luggage. Officer Joselito Mutya says it could not immediately be determined if the woman's name is the same as that on the bag's identity tag.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

Northern Marianas Descent Registry (NMDR)
Public Notice/Announcement

This is to inform the general public that the Commonwealth Election Commision has established the Northern Marianas Descent Registry (NMDR) as mandated by Public Law 17-40. As such, the Commonwealth Election Commision has started the registration of persons of Northern Marianas Descent pursuant to Article XII Section 4 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Qualified individual who wish to register may do so at the Commonwealth Election Commission Office in Susupe for Saipan residents and with an Election Commissioner for Rota and Tinian residents on each respective island. Individuals who wish to register are kindly requested to provide a copy of their Certificate of Live Birth. For more information, you may contact the Commonwealth Election Commission at 664-VOTE (8683) or visit our website at http://votecnmi.gov.mp for more details.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
ELECTRIC DIVISION — **DOCKET 09-1**
WATER AND WASTEWATER DIVISIONS — **DOCKET 12-01**

AMENDED: CHANGE OF DATE/TIME: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ATTENTION: THIS NOTICE AMENDS THE PRIOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME FOR THIS COMMISSION HEARING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at **9:00 a.m. on January 25, 2012**, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission *[Commission]* will conduct a public hearing at the Retirement Fund Building Conference Room, Capitol Hill to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the following regulatory matters concerning the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation *[CUC]*. **The Hearing shall convene at 9 am through 2:30 pm. The Commission will recess at that time. The Hearing shall continue on the next day, January 26, 2012 at 9 am, if necessary, until completed.**

1. CUC Electric Division [Docket 09-1].

The Commission will examine CUC's December 8, 2011 petition for base rate relief, which requests that effective on or about February 20, 2012 its electric base rate revenues [which do not include fuel revenue, as discussed below] be increased on an annualized basis by about $7.9 million, which would increase the average residential ratepayer's monthly electric bill by about $6.87. CUC proposes that the additional revenue to be produced by this rate increase be allocated to its three customer classes *[residential, commercial and government]* in the manner set forth in its public notice, as published in the Saipan Tribune and Marianas Variety on December 21, 2011. CUC asserts that this increased base revenue is just, reasonable and necessary to enable it to address: a] the statutory mandate that it bill and collect adequate rate revenue to recover the costs associated with the operation and delivery of electric service, including financial reserves; b] the requirements of the Federal Stipulated Order dated March 11, 2009, in *USA v. CUC and CNMI;* c] declining revenues resulting from decreased loads; and d]additional revenue requirements imposed by Retirement Fund assessments; CDA payments and Telesource Change Order No. 5.

The Commission will also consider at the hearing the following requests by the Electric Division for regulatory action: a] amendment of the levelized energy adjustment clause [LEAC] tariff, as established by Commission order dated December 19, 2008, in order to transition to a monthly rate and to authorize the establishment of separate LEAC rates for each customer class; b] establishment of a new LEAC rate to be effective January 27, 2012 of $0.29579 per kWh; c] reconciliation of all prior LEAC assessments through September 30, 2011; d] establishment of a new street lighting tariff with the following monthly rates: long arm $11.67; short arm $8.33; and LED $10.83, which should apply to all public and private security lighting customers; e] approval of the Independence Bank loan; f] establishment of a new net metering tariff; g] establishment of a new municipal pumping station customer class; h] approval of a memorandum of understanding between CUC and the CNMI government regarding the payment of outstanding utility bills; i] approval of a security services contract; j] amendment of the contract review protocol, as established by Commission order dated December 19, 2008; and k] further suspension of CUC's duty to comply with statutory renewable energy portfolio standards under 4 CMC §8624(b).

2. CUC Water and Wastewater Divisions [Docket 12-01].

The Commission will also examine CUC's October 10, 2011 petition to increase its water and wastewater rates, effective on or about February 20, 2012. CUC proposes an increase to its unmetered water fixed charge and to its wastewater monthly service fee and volumetric charges, in amounts set forth in its December 21, 2011 public notice. In addition, CUC proposes that new water and wastewater energy charges be established, which would enable these divisions to pass through to customers the actual cost of their electricity expense. CUC estimates that the initial water energy charge would be $2.11 per 1,000 gallons and that the initial wastewater energy charge would be $2.68 per 1,000 gallons. The aggregate impact of these proposed increases on the average monthly residential water bill would be about $6.73 and about $34.11 on the average monthly residential wastewater bill. CUC asserts these proposed water and wastewater rate increases are just, reasonable and necessary.

The Commission will also consider at the hearing the following additional requests by the Divisions for regulatory action: a] the establishment of three new water and wastewater customer classes: multi-family customers; municipal pumping customers; and public school system; b] a new $50 sewer dumping charge; c] a new $50 wastewater inspection/testing charge; d] the November 8, 2011 petition of Senator Juan Ayuyu for establishment of a $0.25 per thousand gallon agricultural water usage rate for commercial farmers and ranchers in areas where there is 24 hour water available and a flat $25 monthly rate in areas where 24 hour water service is not available; and e] several amendments to its service rules and regulations, as discussed in CUC's December 21, 2011 public notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION regarding these rate petitions and requests for regulatory action, the public is referred to: a] CUC's December 21, 2011 notice, as published in the Marianas Variety and in the Saipan Tribune; and b] the testimony and documentary evidence, which is available for public review at CUC's administrative office on the 3rd floor, Joeten Dandan Building and at its Tinian and Rota offices. The Commission has tasked its independent regulatory consultant *[Georgetown]* to investigate and comment on the above CUC requests. As a result this review and in furtherance a prehearing conference between CUC and Georgetown, they will present by stipulation, at the **January 25, 2012** public hearing, joint recommendations for Commission action on the above CUC requests. This stipulation will be available for public inspection on and after January 19, 2012 at the offices of Georgetown's legal counsel, Mr. Robert Torres, Esq. Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Saipan – phone number 670-234-7859 and will also be available at the public hearing.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE at its January 21, 2012 public hearing and will welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before January 17, 2012 file with the Commission at the offices of Mr. Robert Torres, Esq. *[see above contact information]* an application and offer of proof in accordance with 4 CMC §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will schedule, notice and conduct a special business meeting to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from the office of Mr. Robert Torres, Esq.

World

Van der Sloot pleads guilty to killing Peru woman

LIMA, Peru (AP)—After Joran van der Sloot pleaded guilty Wednesday to the 2010 murder of a Peruvian woman he met at a Lima casino, his lawyer argued that the killing was tragically triggered by fallout from the very event that originally brought his client notoriety. The "persecution" suffered by Van der Sloot after the unsolved disappearance of U.S. teenager Natalee Holloway five years earlier scarred him psychologically with a kind of post-traumatic stress disorder, defense attorney Jose Jimenez told the three female judges who are to sentence his client Friday.

The young Dutchman has been the prime suspect in the Holloway case since she disappeared on Aruba five years to the day before the killing of the 21-year-old Peruvian woman, business student Stephany Flores. With the evidence against him in the Peru killing strong, Van der Sloot entered a guilty plea Wednesday at his lawyer's urging, hoping for a reduced sentence.

"I truly am sorry for this act. I feel very bad," the 24-year-old defendant said, showing no emotion in a brief admission of guilt in fractured Spanish. He did not use the Dutch translator provided for the proceeding.

Prosecutors are asking for a 30-year prison sentence under charges that carry a 15-year minimum.

Van der Sloot, physically imposing at well over six feet tall, bowed his head minutes later as his lawyer argued that he killed Flores in a "severe emotional reaction to extreme psychological trauma" related to the Holloway disappearance, "something he says he never did and for which no evidence at all exists."

Van der Sloot did not exhibit signs of remorse, and he briefly smiled while conferring with Jimenez before leaving the courtroom.

The judges have 48 hours to render a sentence and the presiding magistrate, Victoria Montoya, said the panel would reconvene Friday to do so. Van der Sloot's trial opened last week but was adjourned until Wednesday after he asked for more time to decide how to plead. He said then that he did not accept the aggravated murder charges the prosecution sought.

Van der Sloot, who wore faded jeans and an untucked light-blue button-down shirt, had confessed to the May 30, 2010, killing long ago. He told police shortly after the murder that he killed Flores in a fit of rage after she discovered his connection to the disappearance of Holloway on his laptop while they played poker online.

The defense says it was manslaughter, for which the minimum sentence is 5 years.

Police forensic experts disputed that claim and a lawyer for the victim's prominent family contends Van der Sloot killed Flores in order to rob her.

Prosecutors charged him with first-degree murder and theft.

The prosecution maintained Van der Sloot killed Flores with "ferocity" and "cruelty," concealing the crime and fleeing to Chile, where he was caught two days after Flores' rotting body was found.

He took more than $200 in cash plus credit cards from the victim and made his initial getaway in her car, leaving it in a different part of Lima, prosecutors say.

"Van der Sloot is far too cold and calculating," Peru's chief homicide detective at the time, Miguel Canlla, told The Associated Press shortly after the killing.

AP

People protest against Joran van der Sloot as they hold up an enlarged picture of his police mug shot outside San Pedro prison where his murder trial is held in Lima, Peru, Wednesday Jan. 11, 2012.

Blast kills Iran nuclear expert amid 'covert war'

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—It seemed a clockwork killing: Motorcycle riders flashed by and attached a magnetic bomb onto a car carrying a nuclear scientist working at Iran's main uranium enrichment facility. By the time the blast tore apart the silver Peugeot, the bike was blocks away, weaving through Tehran traffic after what Iran calls the latest strike in an escalating covert war.

The attack—which instantly killed the scientist and fatally wounded his driver on Wednesday—was at least the fourth targeted hit against a member of Iran's nuclear brain trust in two years. Tehran quickly blamed Israeli-linked agents backed by the U.S. and Britain.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton denied any U.S. role in the slaying, and the Obama administration condemned the attack. However, provocative hints from Jerusalem reinforced the perception of an organized and clandestine campaign to set back Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The day before the attack, Israeli military chief Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz was quoted as telling a parliamentary panel that 2012 would be a "critical year" for Iran—in part because of "things that happen to it unnaturally."

The blast killed Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, a chemistry expert and a director of the Natanz uranium enrichment facility, the centerpiece of Iran's expanding program to make nuclear fuel. Roshan, 32, had planned to attend a memorial later Wednesday for another nuclear researcher who was killed in a similar pinpoint blast two years ago, Iranian media said.

"A heinous act," said Iran's Atomic Energy Organization of Wednesday's bombing.

It added a tone of defiance. "We will continue our (nuclear) path without any doubt ... Our path is irreversible," said the statement carried on state television.

The state news agency IRNA said Roshan had "organizational links" to Iran's nuclear agency, which suggests a direct role in key aspects of the program. Another news agency, the semi-official Mehr, said Roshan had been interviewed by inspectors from the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency—which Iran has accused of placing its scientists in peril by including their names in public reports.

Natanz, in central Iran, is the country's main enrichment site. Officials said this week they were expanding some operations to an underground site south of Tehran with more advanced equipment.

The U.S. and its allies are pressuring Iran to halt uranium enrichment, a key element of the nuclear program that the West suspects is aimed at producing atomic weapons. Uranium enriched to low levels can be used as nuclear fuel, but at higher levels it can be used as material for a nuclear warhead.

First Year Death Anniversary

NADINE JANELLE
"LEISIFISCHIMAL"
TAITANO LIZAMA

Lovingly known as "Nade"

We, the family of the late Nadine Janelle Taitano Lizama, humbly invite all of our relatives, friends and acquaintances to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be offered at the St. Jude Parish in Koblerville as follow:

January 13 – 14, 2012	6:00PM
January 15, 2012	8:00AM
January 16 – 20, 2012	6:00PM

Nightly Rosary will be said at 7:30PM at the family residence in Koblerville.
On the final day Saturday, January 21, 2012 Mass will be celebrated at 5:00PM at the St. Jude Parish in Koblerville.
Dinner will be served immediately thereafter.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, and Thank You

Jose A. Jr. & Rosa T. Lizama
Jerome C. Delos Santos
(Rikko Jedd, Rocco Je and Rosie Jean)
and Family

WORLD BRIEFS

Ahmadinejad denounces capitalism while in Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad denounced capitalism Wednesday during a speech at the University of Havana on the third leg of a trip to highlight friendships with his Latin American allies, most of them thorns in Washington's side. Ahmadinejad held a private meeting later with President Raul Castro and was expected to meet with Fidel Castro. In all, he planned to spend less than 24 hours on the island before flying to Ecuador. At the university, the Iranian leader railed against the United States and its allies and said heartless capitalism is the root cause of war.

Israeli military chief hints at anti-Iran activity

JERUSALEM (AP)—A throwaway comment by Israel's military chief has hinted of possible Israeli involvement in attacks like the explosion that killed an Iranian nuclear scientist Wednesday. Testimony by Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz to a closed parliamentary committee on Tuesday appeared particularly prescient. The Israeli military leader told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that "2012 is expected to be a critical year for Iran." He cited "the confluence of efforts to advance the nuclear program, internal leadership changes, continued international pressure and things that happen to it unnaturally."

Russian ship stopped carrying arms bound for Syria

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—A Russian ship that made an unscheduled stop in Cyprus while carrying tons of arms to Syria was technically violating an EU embargo on such shipments, say Cypriot officials. The vessel, however, was allowed to continue its journey Wednesday after changing its destination. The cargo ship, owned by St. Petersburg-based Westberg Ltd., left the Russian port on Dec. 9 for Turkey and Syria, which is 65 miles (105 kilometers) east of Cyprus, the officials said.

Off The Wall

NYC school employee faked daughter's death

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City school employee forged a daughter's death certificate to get extra vacation time in Costa Rica and has since been fired, according to a report by the school system.

Joan Barnett, 58, a parent coordinator at the High School of Hospitality and Management, submitted an altered death certificate to get approved leave time in March and April 2010, according to the report by the Commissioner of Investigation. She lost her job that June after the forgery came to light.

It was first reported Tuesday in the Daily News of New York.

According to the report, someone who said she was Barnett's daughter called the school on March 19, 2010, and said her sister in Costa Rica was very sick.

Later that day, the report said, Barnett's called and said her sister had suffered a heart attack and died. She said relatives were gathering in Costa Rica.

Barnett faxed the school a death certificate April 8, the report said.

School officials were suspicious because it had different, misaligned fonts. A Costa Rican government official later confirmed the document was a fake, noting that the death certificate had been issued in 2005.

In addition to losing her job, Barnett pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor forgery charge last fall and was sentenced to 10 days' community service. Her attorney did not return a call seeking comment Tuesday.

Neither the criminal complaint against Barnett nor the special commissioner's report addresses the question of whether the daughter who purportedly died ever existed.

Laurel Wright-Hinckson, a spokeswoman for the special commissioner's office, said that Barnett refused to speak to investigators, who were "unable to ascertain if in fact she had said daughter and if she did, if this daughter did pass away."

Beezow Doo-Doo Zopittybop-Bop-Bop arrested in Wis.

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Authorities in southern Wisconsin are facing a tongue twister thanks to the arrest of Beezow Doo-Doo Zopittybop-Bop-Bop.

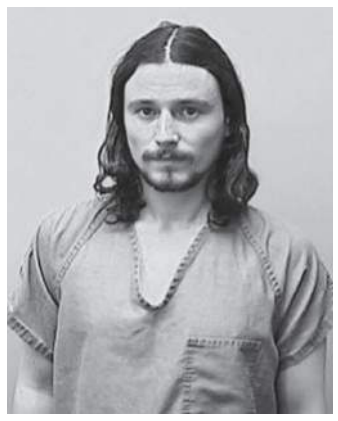
The unusually named 30-year-old man was in jail Sunday in Madison. Police say he violated his bail conditions from a previous run-in with the law.

Court records show that his name used to be Jeffrey Drew Wilschke. He legally changed it in October.

The Capital Times reports that Zopittybop-Bop-Bop was arrested last week after residents complained of excessive drinking and drug use near Reynolds Park in Madison. Authorities say he was arrested in another local park last April after police found a loaded handgun in his backpack.

He's tentatively charged with carrying a concealed knife, and possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana.

Jail records don't list his bail amount or an attorney.



This photo provided Monday, Jan. 9, 2012, by the Dane County, Wis., Sheriff's Office shows Beezow Doo-Doo Zopittybop-Bop-Bop who is tentatively charged with carrying a concealed knife, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana and a probation violation after his arrest Thursday. AP

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Alleged carjacker arrested when he stops for gas

COOS BAY, Ore. (AP)—An alleged carjacker in Oregon certainly didn't check the fuel gauge on the car he's accused of taking from a grocery store parking lot. Officers in Coos Bay quickly arrested the man when he stopped a few miles away to buy gas. Authorities say the man threw a woman out of the car Tuesday and sped off. The World of Coos Bay reports the man pulled into a gas station and asked to pay cash, but the attendant was suspicious because the driver was agitated. The attendant says the man was obviously relieved when police drove past the station. But officers drove around the back and cornered the suspect. Police say he tried to drive away but crashed the stolen Honda Civic into a light post.

Thai official's behavior at airport causes uproar

BANGKOK (AP)—A Thai customs official has been demoted over a YouTube video that shows him hitting an airport security officer while refusing to be patted down. Footage from a surveillance camera at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi airport shows the official striding through a security check, fiercely objecting to being searched and then whacking the officer's ears. The official then pointed to his badge and the junior officer bowed apologetically. The video has a Sunday time stamp and was posted Monday. By Tuesday it had attracted more than 5,000 angry comments. Customs Department director-general Somchai Poolsavasdi said the official was transferred to an office job during an investigation into his "distressing" behavior. The department released only the official's first name, Sombat.

Police arrest convicted felon with gun in her bra

PHOENIX (AP)—A convicted felon has been arrested by police in a Phoenix suburb after telling officers that she was hiding a handgun in her bra. Angela Lynn Milhoan is not allowed to possess a firearm. But police in Mesa, Ariz., say the 20-year-old admitted to concealing a .22-caliber semi-automatic handgun in her undergarments when a car she was riding in was stopped by officers early Tuesday. The Arizona Republic reports that police had stopped the car while looking for a suspect on a weapons violation warrant. They seized the gun and arrested Milhoan on charges of being a prohibited possessor of a firearm and concealing a deadly weapon while under 21 years of age.

Mass. woman disputes TSA portrayal of her cupcake

PEABODY, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts woman says federal safety officials are mischaracterizing a frosted cupcake in a jar that was confiscated from her at a Las Vegas airport. The Transportation Security Administration says it considered the icing on the cupcake a gel exceeding the 3-ounce limit for airline carry-on luggage. The limit is designed to stop terrorists seeking to evade detection by using explosives made of plastics, liquids or gels. The TSA says in a blog post the cupcake taken last month had a thick layer of icing inside the jar. But Peabody resident Rebecca Hains said Wednesday her jar consisted of three layers of cupcake, each topped with a medium layer of icing, not a thick layer. The bakery that makes the red velvet cupcake has renamed it National (Security) Velvet.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

"At a time when our hearts are filled with pain and loss, it is through the love, care and support that you have shared with us that has given us the strength and courage in each passing day.

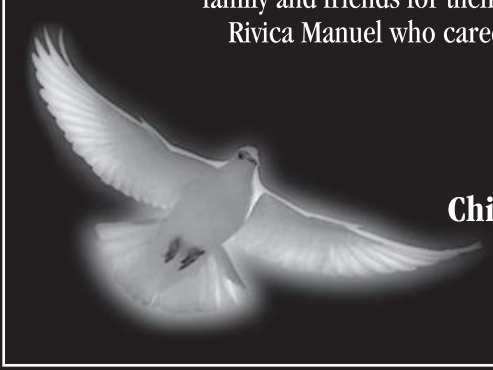
We thank our Heavenly Father for blessing us with a loving and caring father whom we've lost for almost a year and a truly devoted and faithful mother who forever gave us unconditional love. As both of our parents have gone to join their Creator in their new life in God's grace, may their spirits and memories forever live in our hearts."

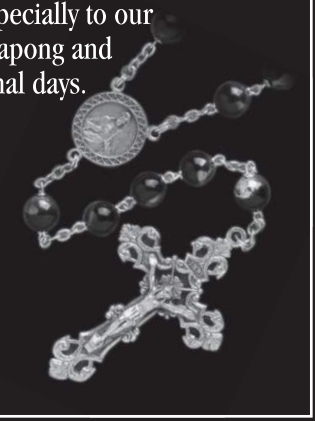
We, the children and family of the late

†Rosalia Aldan Fleming

Wish to extend our deepest sincere appreciation for all the kindness and words of comfort that you all have given us on the loss our beloved mother "†Liang". Your precious prayers, love, support and condolences have helped us during our most difficult times and has also given us the courage to accept that although our beloved mother has gone from our lives and unto her final resting place, she will always live among us in our hearts. Your presence and sacrifices meant the world to us.

We are truly grateful to Fr. Ryan Jimenez and Fr. Sid Ogumoro, Rosary techa Jennifer H. Pettis and Serafina King-Nabors, San Jose Church Choir – Tinian, Tinian Mayor's office, THC staff and management, Care Club, Out Reach program, Mr. Freddie U. Hofschneider Jr., Mr. Juan Pangelinan, Mr. Peter T. Dela Cruz and Mr. Gary Aldan, the PA "Medex" nurses and most especially to our family and friends for their untiring support. Mary A. Reyes, Angelina Joy Tiapong and Rivica Manuel who cared and comforted our beloved mom during her final days.





With all our love, Thank you and
Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase!!

Children and Family of the late
†Alfred Flores and
†Rosalia Aldan Fleming

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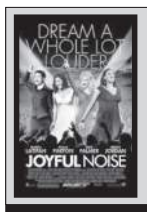
Contraband

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale
Action • Rated R

Synopsis

A former smuggler from New Orleans faces ruthless drug lords, vicious criminals, corrupt officials, and trigger-happy hit men after getting back into the business to help his brother-in-law settle a deadly debt. When it came to transporting illicit goods under treacherous circumstances, Chris Farraday (Mark Wahlberg) used to be the best in the business. But all of that changed when he chose to give up his life of crime to start a family with Kate (Kate Beckinsale). Chris learns that leaving his past behind is easier said than done, however, after Kate's brother Andy (Caleb Landry Jones) goes to work for ferocious drug lord Tim Briggs (Giovanni Ribisi), and drops the ball on a major deal.



Joyful Noise

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

This light, gentle comedy from director Todd Graff stars Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah in the tale of a small-town choir determined to win a national choral competition. As the choir leaders, G.G. Sparrow and Vi Rose Hill (Parton and Latifah) band together and set out to win at any cost, supported by their eager young participants (Jeremy Jordan, Keke Palmer and others).

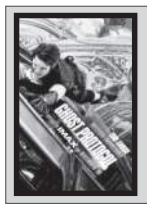
War Horse

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson
Drama, War • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Director Steven Spielberg's epic World War I drama details the remarkable bond between a man named Albert (Jeremy Irvine) and his loyal horse, Joey. Adapted from the novel by Michael Morpurgo, War Horse follows the growing friendship between man and beast as Albert trains Joey, and then follows Joey on an incredible journey across the English countryside after the pair are forcibly separated.



Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13

The Darkest Hour

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Monday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby
Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Robert Downey, Jr. Jude Law
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Tuesday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Jason Lee
Children's/family • Rated G

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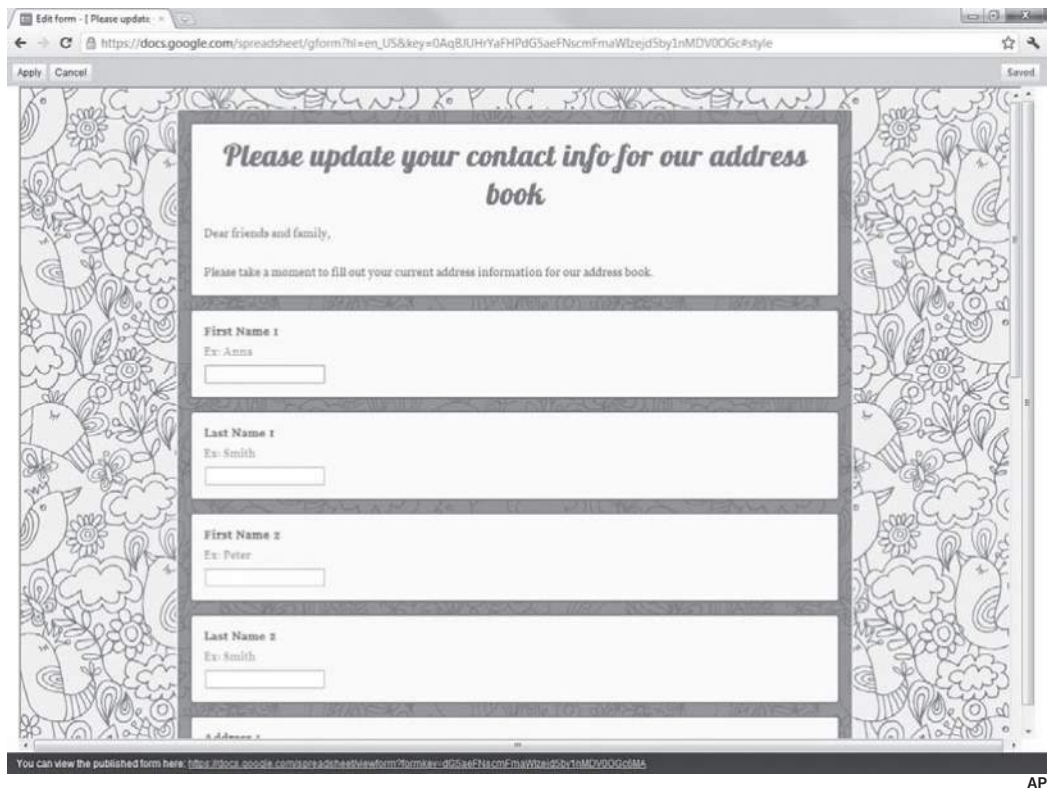
Science & Technology

Google Docs, the perfect bridesmaid

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER



AP

The screenshot, taken on Jan. 11, 2012, shows a Google Docs template for couples-to-be to solicit mailing addresses from guests for wedding invitations.

NEW YORK (AP)—For do-most-of-it-yourself brides, wedding planning means lists, lists and more lists, with some spreadsheets thrown in for good measure. There are also the long, endlessly pored-over documents of vows, readings, even toasts. Did I mention lists?

Enter Google Docs, the search company's free, easy-to-use online document software. With templates for the spreadsheet-challenged and a slew of pretty Web tools, the service is like the perfect bridesmaid. She's calm, collected and full of good ideas but not overly pushy, letting you steer the ship. She's there when you need her.

I started earnestly planning my April 2011 wedding around this time last year. After lots of pen-on-paper scribbling, I decided to join the 21st century and move my planning online. Do you have a wedding, civil union or other commitment ceremony coming up this year? Let good old Google help.

I picked Google's tools over dedicated wedding-planning websites such as The Knot for a few reasons:

■ I didn't want to be bombarded with girly girl ads, think-inside-the-box advice and expensive "must-have" lists. No flower girls, cutesy favors or bright bridesmaids' dresses for us (though we did have bridesmens' suits).

■ I didn't want to join a site that asked for my full name, address and other personal information. I didn't see why I should have to provide all that. The Knot's privacy policy had not been updated since 2008. It says it participates in Facebook's Beacon sharing program, which was shut down more than two years ago over privacy complaints. Time for an update, perhaps?

■ Finally, I've been using Gmail since 2004 without a hitch (I'll just let Buzz slide). I saw no reason why I shouldn't let Google help me get hitched.

To start, I armed myself with a to-do checklist from the popular wedding blog Offbeat Bride—another invaluable Web tool for independently spirited brides.

With my fiance and now husband, I took to Google Docs for our first task. We listed friends and family members we hoped would share our special day. With a set budget and relatively small families, this wasn't too difficult.

The next step, a bit more so. Because so few people send cards and letters through the mail these days, one of the more annoying tasks in planning a wedding is hounding your friends and relatives for their mailing addresses.

Google Docs has automated this with a simple email template. Once you're on Google's weddings site at http://www.google.com/weddings, you can click "Plan" in the top right corner. This will take you to a set of planning documents. Select "Address Book" from that list, then click on "use this template."

You can use that to send a form email to your guests, complete with a pretty picture of a wedding cake or whatever else theme you pick ("Wall St." anyone?).

The email has boxes that your guests can fill in with their street, city and other address information, along with their phone number and any comments. When friends and family send that back, Google automatically adds the information to a spreadsheet. You can then tweak the spreadsheet to add columns for meal choices and other such details.

Easy-peasy right? Sort of. Our young, tech-savvy friends responded quickly, and soon we had a spreadsheet with about half of our guests. But some people didn't seem to know what to do with the form. Others thought it was spam. I had to send regular emails, not pretty forms, to some people, saying hey, that form was not spam, please fill it out.

For many couples, there might also be those older folks who do not use the Internet at all and need to be called to get addresses.

The spreadsheet, once completed, proved invaluable. It's simple to share documents through Google by entering recipients' email addresses, or to restrict them so only you can see them. I shared the list with my fiance and with the people who were planning our bachelor and bachelorette parties. Over time, we added columns such as "invitation sent" and "gift description."

Besides a DJ and a photographer, we also hired an online officiant to help put together our ceremony. A friend of ours performed the actual ceremony after getting ordained over the Internet. Cobbling together the ceremony was much like collaborating on a script among four people in three locations.

Google Docs again proved invaluable. And because the documents are stored remotely, on Google's servers, there was no danger of losing them. That's what happened to a co-worker who was planning her wedding around the same time. Her computer died, and her carefully curated passages were gone.

Not everyone uses Google Docs, though. Our online officiant didn't, so she sent us attachments of her drafts using Microsoft Word. I converted those to Google Docs and shared them with my fiance and the friend who'd be performing the ceremony. We all tweaked the script until it was perfect.

Google lets you share documents with people as "can view" and "can edit." After the wedding, I shared the final document with my mom, so she could keep it for posterity—but not edit it, lest she insert some new vows she'd like my husband to keep.

You can download documents to store on your computer in various formats. These include PDF, Word or a text file. For those who didn't want to use Google Docs, I simply downloaded documents as Word and sent them as an attachment. No biggie.

Besides documents, Google also offers wedding tools to build your wedding website (a must-have these days) and share photos. Although we did not use these services, they are worth checking out.

There's also a budget-planner template, which we did not use. It had too many things that we had no intention of using—calligrapher, flower girl basket, gown preservation, to name a few. And come on, a "wedding planner/organizer" and a "consultant/coordinator" sound like the same thing to me.

I suppose I could have just put in "0" for all the unused options, but it would have been nice to have a range of budget templates for simple, average or lavish weddings. And, this being 2012, it would be nice to see more options for same-sex couples to plan weddings and civil ceremonies.

Besides the ceremony script and guest list, we also scanned in and saved the seating chart, the passages and poem that we had our friends read during the ceremony. We kept a detailed schedule of the day's events that we gave to the wedding venue and all the friends who were helping us. On the big day, We also printed out a list of important phone numbers and addresses and extra copies of everything—just in case.

The actual wedding could not have gone more perfectly. Though I owe the most thanks to my tireless friends and family to help pull it off, Google Docs certainly made it a lot easier.

Life & Style

Kutcher wants to return to 'Two and a Half Men'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—A clean-cut Ashton Kutcher said Wednesday that he's interested in continuing with "Two and a Half Men" beyond this season—and CBS wants him, too.

Kutcher's addition to television's most popular comedy following star Charlie Sheen's implosion was a grand experiment that has worked out better than CBS or the producers could have dreamed.

The show is up 20 percent in viewers over Sheen's final season, the Nielsen ratings company said, and Kutcher has also brought in a younger crowd.

"I've had a blast," said Kutcher, who plays the heartbroken Walden Schmidt. "Since I stopped doing `That `70s Show' I've always wanted to go back and do television."

Kutcher appeared at a news conference without the long hair and beard he has worn this season. It was cut as part of the plot in an episode of "Two and a Half Men" that airs Monday, he said.

Kutcher will be working on movies after filming for this season of "Two and a Half Men" concludes, but "right now I'm looking at it as a hiatus," he said.

CBS would have to strike a new deal with actors and producers to continue the show beyond this season. All parties seem interested in working it out, CBS Entertainment President Nina Tassler said.

"In spirit and intent, everybody is very motivated," she said.

Series creator Chuck Lorre said he gave thought to ending the series after Sheen left last season and couldn't imagine it continuing. But CBS and his co-creator, Lee Aronsohn, nudged him to continue.

AP

Actor Ashton Kutcher speaks during the panel discussion for the sitcom "Two and a Half Men" at the Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour for CBS, the CW and Showtime, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012, in Pasadena, Calif.

"Lee said, `Why not try? If we fail, no one would be physically harmed,'" Lorre said. "It seemed like such a heartbreaking way to end, and we didn't want it to, so we said let's keep the light on."

Writers were able to change the tone by making Kutcher's character a heartbroken Internet billionaire who has everything he wants except the woman he loves. Jon Cryer, who played Sheen's annoying little brother, is now Schmidt's older friend. It was all a welcome tone change, Aronsohn said.

"It's been a lot of fun and a challenge to create a different show with a lot of the same elements," he said.

Obama caucuses in Oval Office with Pitt and Jolie

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama might be powerful and well-known, but the White House got some Hollywood star power Wednesday: Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie stopped by for a chat with the chief executive.

The actors were spotted in the Oval Office by photographers waiting outside for the president to take off for a trip to Chicago.

The White House confirmed Pitt and Jolie were in town to screen Jolie's movie about Bosnian war crimes at the Holocaust museum. They dropped by so the president could talk with Jolie about her work on preventing mass atrocities and combating sexual violence against women.

Beyonce baby complaints at NY hospital dismissed

NEW YORK (AP)—State health officials on Wednesday dismissed complaints that patients in a hospital neonatal unit were mistreated while Beyonce was there giving birth toher and Jay-Z's daughter.

They had received two complaints about Manhattan's Lenox Hill Hospital, one made anonymously, the other from someone who had learned about the matter through the media, a health department spokesman said. Officials reviewed the complaints and dismissed them Wednesday night, spokesman Jeffrey Gordon said without elaborating.

The hospital, a popular choice for the rich and famous from late philanthropist Brooke Astor to "30 Rock" star Tina Fey, said it was conducting its own probe.

Beyonce gave birth to the couple's baby, Blue Ivy Carter, at the hospital on Saturday.

'Idol' Kelly Clarkson to sing anthem at Super Bowl

"American Idol" Kelly Clarkson is set to perform at America's most popular sporting event: the Super Bowl.

Clarkson has been chosen to sing the national anthem before the NFL championship game at Indianapolis on Feb. 5, a person familiar with Super Bowl entertainment plans told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because no announcement has been made. The league is expected to reveal the anthem singer later this month.

Since becoming the first winner of "American Idol" a decade ago, Clarkson has sold more than 20 million albums worldwide and had more than a half-dozen singles reach the top 10 in the Billboard Hot 100.

Among her hit songs: "Since U Been Gone" and "My Life Would Suck Without You." Her latest album, "Stronger," was released last year. Clarkson is currently on tour and appeared as the musical guest on "Saturday Night Live" last weekend. ***(AP)***

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Book Lust' author Nancy Pearl has Amazon deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Nancy Pearl, an author and former librarian much loved in the library and book-selling communities, has a deal with Amazon.com to return obscure works back to print. The online retailer announced Wednesday that Pearl will oversee the Book Lust Rediscoveries series, which will release about six books a year chosen by Pearl. The series is named for Pearl's "Book Lust," a word-of-mouth hit about her passion for reading. Pearl is a former Seattle librarian who has picked up a national following and is a regular commentator on NPR.

Feds cite Lindsay Lohan for unpaid taxes in 2009

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan is facing a lien for nearly $94,000 that the federal government says she owes in unpaid taxes. Records in Los Angeles County show the lien was filed Thursday seeking payment for the 2009 tax year. Celebrity website TMZ first reported the lien Tuesday, the same day a paparazzo sued the model-actress for being in a car that allegedly struck him in Hollywood in January 2010. Lohan's publicist Steve Honig said the starlet's finances are nobody's business but her own. As for photographer Grigor Balyan's lawsuit seeking unspecified damages against Lohan, Honig says he hasn't seen the case but accused the paparazzi of invading her privacy daily. The actress is continuing to serve morgue duty to comply with her probation in a pair of misdemeanor cases.

Visual-effects pioneer Trumbull to receive Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood filmmaker and visual-effects master Douglas Trumbull is receiving an honorary Academy Award. The Academy of Motion Arts and Sciences announced Wednesday that it will present its Gordon E. Sawyer Award to Trumbull, whose pioneering visual-effects credits include "2001: A Space Odyssey," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" and "Blade Runner." Trumbull worked on last year's Brad Pitt-Terrence Malick drama "The Tree of Life," which featured grand images of the cosmos and the age of dinosaurs. The honorary Oscar will be presented to Trumbull at the academy's scientific and technical awards ceremony Feb. 11. Trumbull is the 23rd recipient of the Sawyer Award, which honors technical contributions to Hollywood.

Will Smith to host Kids' Choice Awards in March

NEW YORK (AP)—Will Smith will host Nickelodeon's 25th-annual Kids' Choice Awards. Nickelodeon announced Wednesday that 10-time winner Smith will host the March 31 ceremony from the Galen Center in Los Angeles. The show will air live on Nickelodeon. Smith calls the awards "the year's liveliest, slimiest and most outrageous party for kids and teens." The actor recently finished filming "Men in Black III." The Kids' Choice Awards honor kids' favorites in film, music, sports and television by tallying the votes of kids online and via mobile devices. During the show, green slime is routinely dumped on celebrities and winners receive trophies shaped like blimps.

Blue Ivy Carter becomes youngest ever on Billboard

NEW YORK (AP)—She's not even a week old, but Blue Ivy Carter is already making music history. Billboard says that thanks to her dad, Jay-Z, featuring her on his new song, "Glory," Blue becomes the youngest person to ever appear on its chart. Jay-Z released the song about his first-born child with wife Beyonce on Monday, and it immediately became a viral sensation. The song, which credits B.I.C., features the sound of Blue's cries at the end. Now, the song will enter Billboard's chart next week at No. 74. Blue was born Saturday, and her parents confirmed her birth Monday.

Sorority sisters who support paddling are behind the times

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

EAR ABBY: I have been accepted to a school that's the alma mater of several of my relatives. My mother, several aunts and other family members all belonged to one sorority at this college. They are urging me to pledge there and uphold the family tradition.

They say they had some of the best times of their lives as members of that sorority chapter. The members do well academically, as the sorority insists on it. They made lifelong friends, and their sorority contacts have been extremely helpful personally and professionally.

Although this chapter is very exclusive and accepts only the best-of-the-best, I will have no problems getting in, not only because of my academic record but also because I'm a "legacy."

So what's the problem? This sorority chapter still uses the paddle. Technically they don't haze -- that is, have any initiation stunts -- but they do use the paddle for disciplinary purposes. When I mention my concerns about the paddling to my mother and aunts, they say I should suck it up, as the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. One of my aunts said she thinks the rules and discipline would be beneficial for me because she considers me kind of a "wild child."

Abby, I don't know if you know anything about sororities, but I'm asking for an objective opinion from someone not directly involved.

POSSIBLY PADDLED PLEDGE

DEAR P.P.P.: I joined a sorority in college, and I NEVER heard of a sorority hitting pledges or active members. Some fraternities may have allowed it, but certainly not sororities.

Whether your aunt thinks you could use the discipline is beside the point. Striking someone with a paddle is assault with a weapon. A young man died a short time ago in Florida because of the kind of hazing this national organization is winking at. Are young women who behave that way really the kind of people you would like to be lifelong friends? If not, then pass on that sorority!

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son is chronologically 12 and the size of an adult, but emotionally he is age 5. He's a moderately functioning child with autism, ADHD and behavioral issues.

PLEASE let people know that just because they can't see a disability does not mean there isn't one. I often get dirty looks and rude comments, and I am extremely frustrated with it. Being nice or ignoring it does no good.

I know my son's behavior can be childish, rude or inappropriate at times. I have been fighting this battle every day since he was 2. I have seen every doctor and therapist available and exhausted every resource I could find, and now we have either aged out or my son isn't "bad enough" to be eligible.

However, he is still difficult to handle, and I still need to buy groceries and run errands. Sometimes that parent you are giving the dirty looks to is near the end of her rope and could use a little compassion or at least silence from the peanut gallery. What you see isn't always what you get.

STRUGGLING MOM IN LONG BEACH, MISS.

DEAR STRUGGLING MOM: Please accept my sympathy. As you and other parents of children with disabilities deal with the realities of daily living, the last thing you (or they) need is criticism from strangers. If someone makes a comment or gives you a look, you should say, "My son can't help himself; he's autistic." It's the truth.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOW IS IT THAT THIS OUIJA BOARD KNOWS ALL THE ANSWERS TO LIFE'S MYSTERIES?
LET'S ASK IT.
OH GREAT OUIJA BOARD, HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS?
IT'S MOVING! IT'S MOVING!
WHAT'S IT SAY?
"3."
YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS LAST CHRISTMAS. I ASKED FOR A COMPUTER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

IS THAT A GAG TIE?
UH...
TRY SAYING "YES" AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS
JIM DAVIS 1-13
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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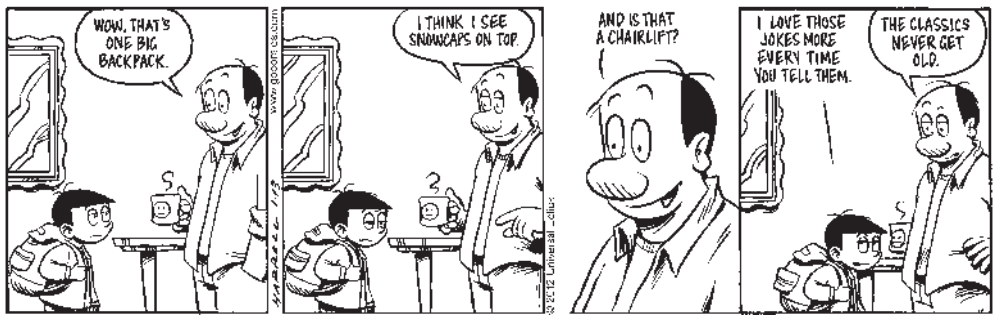
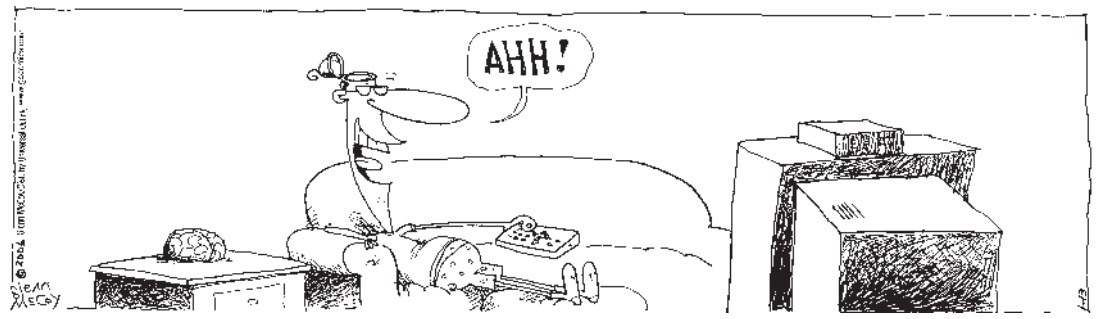
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WOW, THAT'S ONE BIG BACKPACK.
I THINK I SEE SNOWCAPS ON TOP.
AND IS THAT A CHAIRLIFT?
I LOVE THOSE JOKES MORE EVERY TIME YOU TELL THEM.
THE CLASSICS NEVER GET OLD.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Intention
4 Corkboard accessory
8 Contemptible
12 Master of the macabre
13 Reed instrument
14 "Holy cow!"
15 Earn
17 Protracted
18 Spruced up
19 Like some summer days
20 Ill
22 Booty
24 Oodles
25 Strong Holland gin
29 Depressed
30 Nonsense
31 George's brother
32 In one's head, as opposed to on paper
34 Mimicked
35 Dumbstruck
36 Thin pancake
37 Hut
40 Emptiness
41 Flirtatious gesture
42 Decisive confrontation
46 "American —"
47 Detest
48 Court
49 Simmons of KISS
50 Basin accessory
51 Fresh

DOWN

1 Smartphone download
2 Debtor's letters
3 Rapid decline
4 Hot rum drink
5 "— Named Sue"
6 Intimidate
7 Understanding
8 Whale variety
9 Quite enthusiastic
10 Trilled
11 Envelope-pushing
16 Light refrain
19 Scads
20 Soother ...
21 ... that may contain this
22 Berate
23 Part of Miss Muffet's lunch
25 Cobbler's item
26 "Hush!"
27 Get ready
28 Marquis de —
30 Warmonger
33 Equipment
34 Dry
36 Cringe
37 Hearty drink
38 Stash
39 Unsigned (Abbr.)
40 November responsibility
42 That girl
43 Hem's partner
44 "Alas!" emotion
45 Without further ado

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	A	V	A		I	I	A	N		S	L	A	M
U	N	I	T		O	N	F		K	O	I	A
L	O	O	T		T	I	C		I	V	A	N
U	N	L	A	C	E		K	N	E	E		
			C	O	L	D	T	U	R	K	E	Y
G	A	W	K	Y		R	I	B		N	E	E
O	R	E	S		B	Y	E		C	O	R	A
A	I	L		P	O	E		G	A	T	O	R
T	A	L	K	T	U	R	K	E	Y			
		D	E	A	L		N	E	U	R	O	N
I	C	O	N		D	I	E		S	O	L	O
S	A	N	D		E	R	A		E	L	L	S
O	R	E	O		H	E	D		S	L	A	Y

Yesterday's answer 1-13

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
■	■	18				■	■	19				
20	21				■	22	23			■	■	■
24				■	25					26	27	28
29			■	30					■	31		
32			33					■	34			
■	■	■	35				■	36				
37	38	39			■	■	40				■	■
41				■	42	43					44	45
46				■	47				■	48		
49				■	50				■	51		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Liam Hemsworth, 22; Orlando Bloom, 35; Patrick Dempsey, 46; Julia Louis-Dreyfus, 51.

Happy Birthday: Don't waste time; make things happen. Your ability to understand the big picture and to act accordingly will ensure that you get your way and reach your goals. Opportunity is present; all you have to do is recognize and embrace what's being offered. Simplicity and moderation coupled with good intentions will help you excel. Your numbers are 7, 16, 22, 29, 31, 34, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Give everything you've got to your professional plans. You can impress someone with your responsible attitude and your drive to get things done. Look for a partnership that can help you explore new avenues. Express what you want. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Plan to attend a conference, tradeshow or anything that will help increase your earning potential or expand your mind. Openness to different cultures, religions or philosophy will help you realize what you want to accomplish. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let anyone take advantage of you financially or emotionally. Expect to face opposition and prepare to protect your reputation. Jealousy will be behind any personal affront you face. Stand tall and stay close to the people you can trust. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Home is your safe haven, where you should be putting your time and effort. Fix up your digs and work at improving any personal relationships you may have been neglecting lately. Good fortune will come from helping others. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Discuss your plans for the future. What you are trying to accomplish is likely to fit nicely with something you are already doing. Opportunity is present; all you have to do is plant a seed and help it grow. Express the changes you envision. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Pay more attention to your image and how you present yourself to others. Sprucing up your looks or broadening your interests will help you expand friendships and connect with people who have similar goals. Travel will bring positive results. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Work quietly behind the scenes. A past partner will want to reunite. Before you decide to forgive and forget, establish some ground rules. Love is in the stars, and a romantic evening will ease your stress and boost your confidence. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Lend a helping hand. Your kindness will be appreciated. A lead you get will be helpful and will bring an unfinished project back to the forefront. A partnership will bring renewed vision and interest to your plans. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Avoid a battle you cannot win. An emotional struggle is apparent, and a problem with authority figures will arise if you aren't careful how you conduct yourself. Self-improvement should be your goal, not emotional negativity. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): An investment will be successful. Doing the work yourself will save you money and ensure the job gets done properly. Time is money, and working to enhance your surroundings or to buy or sell something you own will pay off handsomely. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): If you need help, ask for it. Partnering with someone will lower your costs and help you get twice as much done in half the time. Someone from your past will weigh heavily on your mind and fit into your plans extremely well. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't sit back and wait for someone else to do the work. Size up your situation and focus on getting ahead on your own. An interesting partnership will develop due to your ability to carry on regardless of who helps and who doesn't. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, unique and trendy. You are in control and opportunistic.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		6		2		4	
5								7
		7			3	8		
7					5	4		2
3		8	9					5
		3	1			2		
9								6
	6		5		7		9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	7	5	8	6	2	9	3
3	2	5	9	1	7	4	6	8
6	8	9	3	4	2	5	1	7
9	7	1	2	5	3	8	4	6
8	3	2	4	6	9	7	5	1
5	6	4	1	7	8	9	3	2
2	9	6	7	3	5	1	8	4
7	1	8	6	9	4	3	2	5
4	5	3	8	2	1	6	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SILLY FACES Solution: 8 letters

P	Y	H	E	Y	E	L	A	S	H	E	S	C	(D) R
F	U	T	A	T	H	R	Y	L	L	I	S	(L)	O T
I	R	E	T	I	A	C	A	R	D	S	(I)	L	P U
N	W	E	K	U	R	E	I	L	A	(W)	L	Y	E O
G	E	T	C	A	N	E	R	Y	F	C	L	P	Y P
E	I	X	Z	K	M	O	G	C	K	D	S	P	P A
R	R	Y	P	O	L	N	S	H	L	C	M	A	O I
S	D	C	T	R	I	E	E	T	C	U	A	H	S N
M	S	I	O	H	E	H	S	S	R	O	O	W	E T
Y	O	N	G	N	C	S	K	G	H	I	O	H	S Y
N	N	U	W	A	F	E	S	C	O	R	L	M	G E
I	A	O	T	O	E	U	N	I	B	O	R	S	S L
L	R	S	O	H	L	I	S	E	O	O	F	O	G I
F	U	S	C	L	R	C	Y	E	F	N	N	Y	I M
M	T	O	N	G	U	E	W	I	D	E	S	H	W S

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Cards, Cheeks, Clowns, Confused, Crazy, Create, Dopey, Emotion, Expressions, Eyebrows, Eyelashes, Fingers, Flare, Forms, Freckles, Frown, Ghoul, Goofy, Grinch, Grumpy, Hair, Happy, Laughing, Loony, Makeup, Mouth, Mustache, Nose, Nostrils, Nutty, Paint, Poses, Pout, Roll, Scary, Silly, Smiley, Smooch, Teeth, Tongue, Wacky, Weird, Wide, Wigs, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Finish

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

FOR SALE

Young female pig ready to be bred or roast-call to see - 322-0268 - Sow/bore on site

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for Continiental OnePass miles & Delta Skymiles. We pay cash. Call 888-2205

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$100 - $300/mo (Single occupancy)
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Saipan Tribune

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, -v- **ANGELINA A. MANGLONA,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 02-0408** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 345 R 404, situated in Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 dated September 21, 1984, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 84-2049.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 20, 2012, at the hour of 11:30 a.m., at the Superior Court, Sinapalo Village, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 24th day of October, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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We Buy & Sell
Used IPod & IPhone
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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: **Alejandra Lynn Dela Cruz Indalecio,** Petitioner,	**FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0014** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 9, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

DATED, this 9th day of January, 2012:

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

By: /s/Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **BENITO S. TAMAN and DOMITILIA T. TAISACAN,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0418** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 21, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: That certain tract or parcel of real property situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, designated as Lot No. 002 G 286, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 3, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of January, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS • EDUCATION • HOPE

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) is the community-based cancer support organization for the Northern Mariana Islands dedicated to eliminating cancer and saving lives by providing Advocacy, Awareness, Education, Services and HOPE for all its constituents

CCA is a non-profit organization managed by a 7 member Board of Directors who represents the diversity of the CNMI, CCA's operational funding is fully supported by contributions from corporations, families and individuals.

Position Description: Program Manager

As a Program Manager you will serve as an advocate for the CCA, supporting the CCA's mission and helping the organization better communicate who we are and what we do for the people who need us most, Eligible candidates need qualifications enabling them to fulfill the following key responsibilities:

- Manage budget and comply with stringent guidelines for program services offered to cancer patients and constituents
- Coordinate and collaborate with the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands CNMI Representative and the CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (CCCP) and effectively collaborate with the Program Manager to advocate and further our mission goals
- Develop, manage and grow revenue goals through multiple, fundraising events and collateral sales
- Assist the Event Chairperson(s) and participate in efficiently carrying out our signature fundraising event the "Marianas March Against Cancer", by attending Organization Committee and Team Captain meetings
- Mobilize and coordinate a CNMI community-wide volunteer working committee to implement the CNMI CCCP
- Develop and cultivate community partnerships/relationships and participate in appropriate coalitions
- Prepare/disseminate reports and publications such as an annual report, monthly performance report, bulletins, brochures, flyers, and various other promotional and educational cancer-related materials
- Assertively promote CCA Advocacy, initiatives, education and services to schools, worksites and community leaders to effectively build broad based support for our mission
- Seek monetary and in-kind donations from our business, community, private/public grants and endowments through direct solicitation, grant application and or bartering of goods and services
- Capture and track constituents served from our projects and services
- Comply and demonstrate ability to work within established budgets
- Effectively arrange monthly board meetings and other work as assigned by the President or his/her designee
- Plan ahead and always anticipate what is wanted and needed and be out in front in seeing that we meet our goals and responsibilities to the community.

Qualifications and Position Requirements:

- AA Degree and/or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Two years experience in sales, event management, customer service or volunteer management
- Demonstrated project management skills with high attention to detail and ability to multi task and delegate
- Demonstrated ability to inspire volunteers
- Strong relationship building skills
- Possess high energy, positive attitude
- Ability to maintain professional demeanor
- Must be a team player who can effectively work and interact with volunteers and the public
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated presentation skills
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite more specifically MS Publisher, Adobe Photoshop or comparable software, database and spreadsheet management, e-mail software and Internet browsers
- Travel to Rota, Tinian, regional and Stateside may be required and will be funded by CCA as Contracting Party
- Evening and weekend work required

Condition of Employment and Remuneration:

- Independent Contract Agreement - At Will, Exempt Contract Employment
- Contract remuneration $25,000,00 to $32,000,00 per annum depending on qualifications and experience.
- This position requires that you have a 2011-2012 CNMI Business License
- U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident-Hire Only
- Please submit cover letter and resume by the deadline of **January 16, 2012 at 5:00PM** to the CCA email at cca@ccamarianas.org, or hand deliver it to the CCA office located in Gualo Rai. Address your cover letter to Bud White, President of CCA, or to Maggie Camacho, Chair of the Selection Committee. For more information, please call our office at 682-0050

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

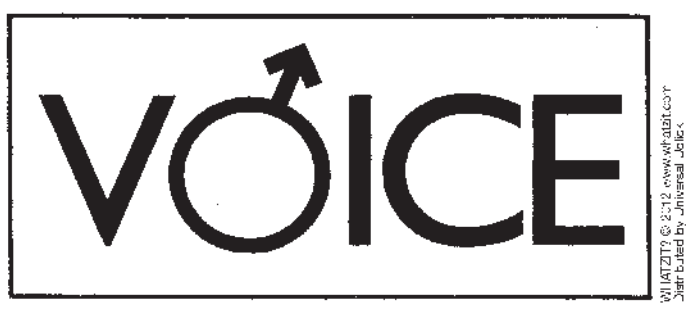
CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 094 D 03, containing an area of approximately 951 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Man Bao Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Directors of the Corporation are Cheung, Pingyin and Yuan, Beihua.

The President/Treasurer of the Corporation is Cheung, Pingyin and the Vice-President/Secretary is Yuan, Beihua.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with several business activities such as tour agency, a restaurant, a car rental, automobile repair shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 26, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensionña para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tånu' pupbliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 094 D 03, ni kinonsisti åria kåsi guaha 951 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i lugåt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Man Bao Corporation, CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Corporation siha si Cheung, Pingyin yan si Yuan Beihua.

I Presidenti /Tresureru gi Corporation si Cheung, Pingyin yan i Sigundu Presidenti/Sekritåriu si Yuan, Beihua.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Antonio Rasiang.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa o lugåt solamienti para hinangai developing yan managing facility yan pulu aktibidåt bisnis siha tåtkumu our agency, sagan chumotchu, atkilon kareta, shop manareklan tumobit.

I teman i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I maproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt, ingklusu i prisenti na estroktura.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Ineru 26, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng , data awewee, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 094 D 03, eyoor tiwabwughúw limeigh me eew laapal(951 square meters) elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Arabwal, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Man Bao, eew CNMI Corporation. Schóól assamwoolul Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin , me Yuan, Beihua.

Samwoolul/Treseróru (President/Treasurer) Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin me aruschayúl Samwool/Sekkretaria (Vice President/Secretary) nge Yuan, Beihua.

iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me lemeli eew facilidóód il business rel tour agency, leliyal mwungo(restaurant), car rental, ferúl ghareta (automobile repair shop) me bwal akkaw mwóghutughut.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon nge ebwe mwiril sángi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw, me bwal meta kka e akkayu llól bwuley yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 26, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Vacancy No. 12-005

Opening Date: Thursday, 1/5/12 **Closing Date: Until Filled**

CHIEF ENGINEER
(Water and Wastewater)

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power and water utilities to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and wastewater utility to the island of Saipan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (Water and Wastewater) or his/her designee. The duties and responsibilities are as follows: Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required by CUC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CUC is under a Stipulated order of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case 08-0051 filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(Saipan has a population of about 50,000. It is adjacent Asia and about a 3-hour flight south of Tokyo.)

POSITIONS: One (1).

SALARY: $100,000.00 to $135,000.00 per annum; Un-classified; Un-graded.
(If hired from outside the Northern Mariana Islands, terms and conditions of the relocation costs will be negotiated. However, the accommodation shall not exceed $15,000.00 for moving to the islands and shall not exceed $10,000 for moving away from the islands.)

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree in civil, mechanical, or electrical engineering; Registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch; Experience of ten (10) or more years as a professional engineer. Demonstrate the following: Proven management and communication skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Competency and proficiency in overseeing major drinking water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, construction, and operation of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and in wastewater treatment, collection, and conveyance systems. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. driver's license.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. You may also drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judicial Branch is seeking a qualified and reliable individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL – *Rota, Marshal Service Unit*

REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Candidate must possess a valid CNMI driver's license, current police and traffic clearances, and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Marshal on Saipan and be responsible for maintaining order in the courtroom during proceedings and prisoner processing; conduct inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibit the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; monitor court premises; assist in protection and transportation of jurors and other court personnel; have knowledge of and follow courtroom directives; process prisoner documentation; control unruly patrons, serve jury summonses and other court processes, and perform other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be $16,652 for a one year contract.

Resumes, a complete application, along with copies of police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI should be addressed to the Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP, 96950. Applications can be obtained at the OPM offices. Completed applications may also be submitted at the Rota Superior Court in Sinapalo, Rota. Resumes and applications must be submitted by 5:00p.m. on January 27th, 2012. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can also be seen at http://www.justice.gov.mp

This project was supported by Grant Number 2011-DJ-BX-21 awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and the CNMI Government, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Corrections Program Office, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office for Victims of Crime and Violence Against Women Office. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the CJPA Supervisory Council.

Clippers withstand Heat in overtime, 95-89

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Paul had 27 points and 11 assists and the Los Angeles Clippers rallied to beat Miami 95-89 in overtime Wednesday night, dealing the Heat a second straight extra-time loss.

Blake Griffin had 20 points and 12 rebounds, Caron Butler added 20 points, and Chauncey Billups had 12 for the Clippers, 9-2 against Miami at home since 2001-02. DeAndre Jordan had 11 rebounds.

LeBron James had 23 points and 13 rebounds for the 200th double-double of his career, Mario Chalmers added 18 points, Dwyane Wade 17 and Chris Bosh had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, who lost at Golden State in OT a night earlier. The Heat have lost their last four games against the Clippers at Staples Center.

The Clippers outscored the Heat 9-3 in the extra session, when James, Bosh and Wade missed on a combined seven shots and the team was 1 for 10. Miami coach Erik Spoelstra got ejected after a technical foul with 5 seconds left.

Miami's Big Three struggled in the fourth quarter, too, combining to go 3 for 8 as the team went 4 of 12.

The Clippers led by two with 27 seconds left in regulation before James tied it 86 on a free throw. The Clippers called their final timeout and Paul dribbled around with James hounding him before putting up a shot that missed as time expired, forcing the Heat to the third overtime of their trip.

James missed three consecutive baskets in overtime and he was 6 of 10 from the line in the final 5:49 of regulation. Chalmers hit a 3-pointer for Miami's only points in the extra session.

Jordan scored four points and Butler had three in OT.

With the Clippers trailing 84-83, Billups got fouled by James on a 3-pointer with 27 seconds left in regulation and made all three free throws. The Clippers finished 17 of 23 from the line, while the Heat were 20 of 34.

Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin (32) goes for a rebound along with Miami Heat center Joel Anthony during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012, in Los Angeles.

AP

The Heat won two video reviews in the final 16 seconds of regulation, but they failed to make a field goal in the final 7:32.

Neither team led by more than three points in a physical fourth quarter that featured Wade knocking Paul to the court and Norris Cole and Mo Williams colliding.

The Clippers ended the third quarter with a 12-9 spurt, capped by Paul whipping a pass across the lane to Jordan for a baseline dunk that sent them into the final 12 minutes leading 70-69. Paul and Butler combined for 10 of the Clippers' 12 points in the run.

Lakers 90, Jazz 87, OT

In Salt Lake City, Kobe Bryant scored 40 points and Andrew Bynum blocked Al Jefferson's shot with 1.9 seconds left in overtime to lift Los Angeles past Utah.

Paul Millsap's tip-in tied it at 78-78 with 21 seconds left in regulation then Bryant missed a shot at the buzzer that would have won it in regulation for Los Angeles.

Millsap led Utah with 29 points.

Mavericks 90, Celtics 85

In Boston, Dirk Nowitzki scored 16 points, driving past Kevin Garnett for the go-ahead layup with 5.1 seconds left in Dallas' victory over Boston.

Dallas led most of the game, but Paul Pierce hit a 3-pointer—just his second basket of the night—to tie it at 85 with 25 seconds to play. Former Celtic Delonte West dribbled the clock down to about 10 seconds before giving it to Nowitzki. The NBA finals MVP cut to the basket past Garnett and picked up a foul from Brandon Bass while floating the ball into the basket.

Rajon Rondo scored 24 points for Boston and Garnett had 16 points with 10 rebounds.

Bulls 78, Wizards 64

In Chicago, John Lucas III scored a career-high 25 points filling in for injured Derrick Rose as Chicago beat Washington for its third victory in three nights.

Lucas, starting for the first time in his 70-game NBA career, was at the point in place of MVP Rose, who was out with a sprained big left toe. Kyle Korver added 14 points, and Luol Deng had 12 points and 15 rebounds.

The Bulls are tied for NBA lead with Oklahoma City at 10-2.

Jordan Crawford had 14 points for Washington.

Thunder 95, Hornets 85

In New Orleans, Kevin Durant had 29 points and 10 rebounds in Oklahoma City's win over New Orleans.

Durant hit 11 of his last 14 shots after missing his first three. He took over in the third quarter, scoring 11 points in the first 8 minutes to help the Thunder extend a two-point halftime lead to 12 points. The Hornets pulled within four early in the fourth, but never threatened after that.

Russell Westbrook had 22 points and seven assists, and James Harden added 14 points for Oklahoma City.

Knicks 85, 76ers 79

In New York, Carmelo Anthony had 27 points and nine rebounds as New York won its fourth straight game and snapped Philadelphia's six-game winning streak.

Amare Stoudemire added 20 points and 10 rebounds, and rookie Josh Harrellson had 13 desperately needed points from the bench to help the Knicks improve to 6-4—the first time they've been two games over .500 this season.

Andre Iguodala and Evan Turner each scored 16 points for the 76ers.

Spurs 101, Rockets 95, OT

In San Antonio, Tony Parker hit four free throws late in overtime to lift San Antonio past Houston.

Parker scored 28 points on 12-of-22 shooting to lead the Spurs. Tim Duncan had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Kawhi Leonard added 11 points.

Kyle Lowry scored 22 points for Houston, and Luis Scola had 20. Kevin Martin added 18, and Patrick Patterson had 10 points and seven rebounds.

Pacers 96, Hawks 84

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 24 points to break out of a shooting slump, and Roy Hibbert added 12 points and 11 rebounds to lead Indiana past Atlanta.

The Pacers improved to 7-3, matching their best start since 2005-06. Indiana also is 4-0 at home for the first time since winning its first seven home games in 2002-03.

Josh Smith led Atlanta with 16 points, and Joe Johnson had 15.

Kings 98, Raptors 91

In Toronto, Tyreke Evans scored a season-high 29 points, and DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and a career-high 19 rebounds to help Sacramento beat Toronto for its first road victory of the season.

Isaiah Thomas scored 12 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and Jimmer Fredette had 10 for the Kings.

Leandro Barbosa scored a season-high 24 points for Toronto.

Nuggets 123, Nets 115

In Denver, Danilo Gallinari scored 22 points, and Arron Afflalo and Corey Brewer each had 19 as Denver beat New Jersey.

Jordan Farmar had a game-high 26 points, Anthony Morrow scored 23 points and Deron Williams had 16 points and 13 assists for New Jersey. The Nets set a season high for 3-pointers with 20. Farmar was 6 for 8 from behind the arc and Morrow hit 5 of 9.

Giants give All-Star pitcher Vogelsong 2-year deal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Ryan Vogelsong and the San Francisco Giants agreed Wednesday to a two-year contract worth approximately $8.3 million after he became one of the team's most reliable starters and an unlikely All-Star last season.

The 34-year-old right-hander, who had been eligible for arbitration, had a remarkable comeback season in 2011. He set a career high for wins while going 13-7 with a 2.71 ERA in 30 games, 28 starts. The deal includes a club option for 2014.

Vogelsong toiled through three seasons in the Japanese League before Triple-A stints in 2010 for the Phillies and Angels. In the Bay Area with the team that originally drafted him in the fifth round in 1998, Vogelsong became a front-line starter at last. And he did so at first by filling in for injured Barry Zito.

"It's such a great story when a player perseveres the way Ryan has in baseball," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "He's had to go through the ups and downs and then has a breakout season and he gets rewarded. This is well-earned. He's got the game. He's got great stuff with command and he does all the little things. We're excited about what he did for us last year and now to tie him up, we're excited and happy for him. It truly is an amazing story."

Invited to spring training on a minor league deal, Vogelsong became a feel-good story and won the team's "Willie Mac" Award. The honor is named for Hall of Famer Willie McCovey and is voted on by players, coaches and training staff for the most inspirational Giants player on the field and in the clubhouse.

AP

In this Aug. 25, 2011, file photo, San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Ryan Vogelsong throws to the Houston Astros during the first inning of a baseball game in San Francisco.

Even Vogelsong didn't see all this success coming in his comeback with his first club. He has said, "From Day 1, I've been a Giant at heart."

Vogelsong joined the Giants in mid-April, starting 3-0 and winning six straight decisions during one stretch spanning the All-Star break. He won his final three starts after a five-start losing streak, a rare bump along the way during his breakout year.

"He had a tremendous year last year and he's the consummate pro," said Bobby Evans, the team's vice president of baseball operations. "We're proud to have him back in a Giants uniform. Last year, to see his success and to see him get to take that beyond one year, is great. I think he was one of the biggest surprises in baseball."

Bochy said Vogelsong will be his projected fourth starter behind Tim Lincecum, Matt Cain and Madison Bumgarner. Barry Zito is the fifth starter heading into spring training next month for the 2010 World Series champions.

Also on the to-do list for general manager Brian Sabean is locking up Lincecum and Cain for the long haul—at least that's the hope.

"No update at this time. All discussions are in progress," Evans said.

Jets teammates defend Sanchez amid heavy criticism

NEW YORK (AP)—The fallout from the New York Jets failing to make the NFL playoffs is in full swing, with members of coach Rex Ryan's staff leaving, players taking shots at quarterback Mark Sanchez and other players defending him.

In less than 24 hours, the coaching staff was shaken up with offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer walking away, former Dolphins coach Tony Sparano replacing him, and a few assistants saying they won't be back.

Now the latest controversy involves the shaky status of Sanchez.

Some of his teammates say he lacks the work ethic and leadership skills to lead the Jets to the Super Bowl. And with a new offensive coordinator in charge, the window for Sanchez to do so might have gotten a lot smaller.

"Mark is heading in the right direction," left guard Matt Slauson said during a telephone interview Wednesday. "He is going to be a great quarterback and I really believe he can lead us to a championship. His rookie year, we went to the AFC championship and again last year. The guy can do it. He can get it done. The rest of the team has to do their part, too."

The Daily News quoted one player, who was not identified, as saying Sanchez was "lazy and content." Another player suggested the Jets should do all they can to try to bring in Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, if he's healthy, because Sanchez isn't improving.

"Whoever said all that, they're out of their minds and just trippin'," defensive lineman Marcus Dixon said. "You can't blame a season on one guy. I mean, come on. It's all unfair. We have Mark Sanchez. He's our quarterback. He's our guy. And that's how just about everyone in that locker room feels."

Sanchez's older brother Nick, who is also one of his agents, told The Associated Press in an email that the quarterback was out of town and unavailable for comment.

Center Nick Mangold defended Sanchez on Twitter and then during a radio interview, saying he "very much so, 100 percent" believes in Sanchez.

"I would say definitely the majority of the team feels the same way about Mark," Slauson added. "I don't know who said those things, but I would definitely say it's a small, small portion of the team that doesn't have confidence in Mark."

Dixon pointed out that Sanchez has gathered the team's running backs, wide receivers, tight ends and other quarterbacks in Southern California at his old high school the past few offseasons to work on team chemistry and camaraderie—much of it on his own dime.

"If that's someone who doesn't know how to be a leader or have a good work ethic, then I don't know, man," Dixon said.

There were whispers in the locker room that Sanchez lost the ability to lead late in the season because of his struggles reading defenses and being accurate. Not so, says Slauson.

"I thought he took tremendous strides this year as a leader," Slauson said. "The problem was the situation we were in made it tough for everyone. I mean, it was such a strange and bizarre year for us, but he was one of the only ones who was there stepping up and taking charge, telling us, `Look guys, we can do this. Follow me.'"

Retired Jets right tackle Damien Woody, now an analyst for ESPN, said he thinks the team "does baby" Sanchez to an extent and 41-year-old backup Mark Brunell never provided a true threat to Sanchez.

"They definitely need to bring in a viable backup, a viable backup to really provide that competition, because with competition, you are going to rise or you are just going to crumble," Woody said while at the Giants' training facility. "So I think you bring in a viable backup and let it play out. We'll see which Mark Sanchez shows up after that."

As for Manning coming to the Jets, it's certainly intriguing, but highly unlikely. For one, he's coming off a neck injury that sidelined him the entire season.

The Jets could gamble on bringing him in and hoping he stays healthy, of course. But there's also little chance New York could keep both Manning and Sanchez because of the financial ramifications. Another consideration: what it would do to Sanchez's confidence.

It's also unlikely the team would give up so soon on a player it had such high hopes for when he was drafted fifth overall in 2009.

While his numbers—passing accuracy, quarterback rating, yards per pass—have been mediocre, the argument could be made that Ryan needs to share some of the blame for it. And it didn't help that he guaranteed a Super Bowl win this season.

Ryan raved about the amount of talent on the team, and was excited about having the potential to have Sanchez throw the ball more often with Plaxico Burress and Derrick Mason joining Holmes during training camp. After two years of a run-first mentality, Ryan envisioned Sanchez airing it out.

But it didn't work.

The offensive line was shaky, Sanchez was sacked 39 times for the season, and the wide receivers never truly were in sync with the quarterback as Ryan insisted the Jets go back to the "Ground-and-Pound." The offense finished the season 25th overall.

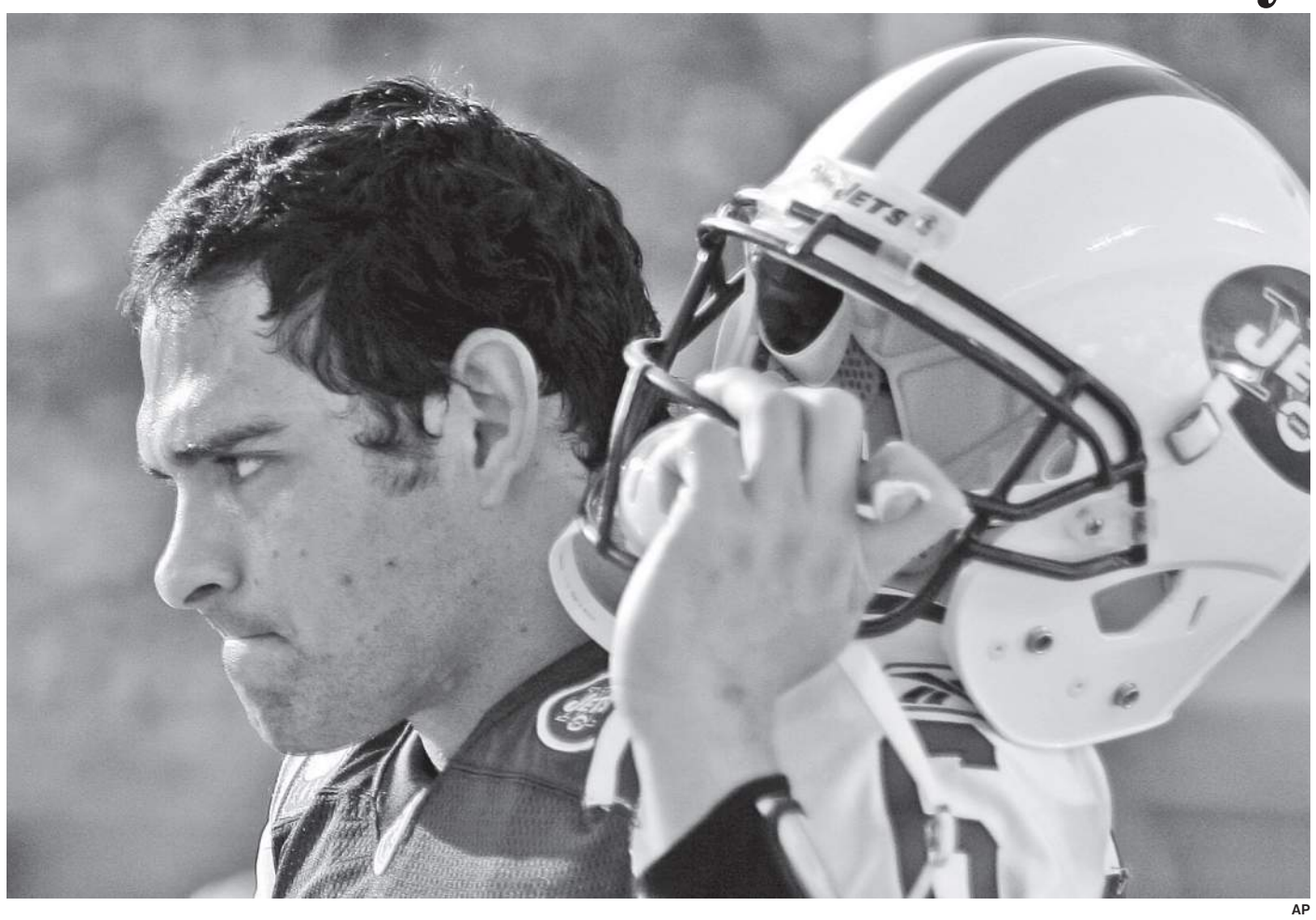
Next came finger-pointing and whispers that the team would be better off without Sanchez.

"It is definitely really disheartening that some players are coming out and want their names protected and all that, and they're talking bad about our team and organization," Slauson said. "That isn't how it's supposed to be done. All I hope for them is that they stay anonymous because things won't end well for them if that ever comes out. Bad mouthing the team and the organization, that could be grounds for losing their jobs. I'm not saying anything will be done, but it would be bad to know exactly who it was because I wouldn't be able to look that guy in the eye the same way again.

"Mark is the hardest-working quarterback I've ever worked with," Slauson said. "I mean, he is there all day long. He doesn't have an outside life, I'm telling you. His whole life is about winning and improving the team. He cares so much and you can see it every day. I really do think he is a great player."

He should get a boost from working with Sparano, who loves to run the ball. That type of system could suit Sanchez perfectly, as it did his first two years.

"We all believe in him," Slauson said. "We really do. We just need to do a better job of executing on earlier downs so we can help make Mark look like the stud he really is."



AP

In this Jan. 1,2012 file photo, New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez (6) grimaces on the sideline during the final minutes of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, in Miami.

Colts hire Eagles executive Ryan Grigson as GM

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Ryan Grigson landed his dream job Wednesday.

After spending more than a decade on the road, scouting for St. Louis and Philadelphia, the 39-year-old Indiana native is coming home to rebuild the Colts possibly with a new coach, a new quarterback and an entirely different philosophy. For the first time, Grigson will be making all those tough decisions.

"I've been on teams whose guys were run off for the sake of running guys off," Grigson said after agreeing to a four-year deal that includes a team option for a fifth year. "That makes no sense to me. I like to salvage things if the ability is there."

There's no time for on-the-job training, either, with the Colts coming off their worst record (2-14) in two decades and fans expecting an immediate turnaround.

Team owner Jim Irsay wants Grigson to make a decision on coach Jim Caldwell, a coach Grigson never even met until Wednesday, by the middle of next week.

Then the new GM must sort out Indy's complicated salary cap problem, a major concern for an aging team bereft of young talent and a young GM with little experience with the cap.

The Colts also must decide whether to pay a $28 million bonus to four-time league MVP Peyton Manning by March 8, renegotiate the contract or let the face of the franchise walk away as a free agent now that it looks as if the Colts will take Andrew Luck with the No. 1 overall pick in April. Grigson said he hasn't spoken with Manning, who missed the entire 2011 season after having his third neck surgery in 19 months.

Irsay said only that Manning continues to rehabilitate the neck.

Grigson also must decide which veteran free agents, if any, to bring back. That list includes Pro Bowl players Robert Mathis, Jeff Saturday and Reggie Wayne, all in their 30s.

Plus, the young GM must replace the highly-respected and powerful Bill Polian, who led five teams to the Super Bowl including two in Indy and was the architect of the most successful decade in league history. Polian, the team's vice chairman, and son Chris, the team's general manager, were fired last week, openings that led to Grigson's hiring.

"He is not walking into a normal situation," Irsay said. "When you have the No. 1 pick, when you have the salary cap problems we do, when you have injured players we do, when you have the coaching situation we do, this is a tough job to come into, but he's not without support. We're going to make the right decisions to win."

Irsay said he will largely let Grigson make the calls, though the team owner plans to be involved in the early decisions and could exercise his veto power.

While it looks like a tough spot for Grigson to succeed, he's beaten longer odds.

In 1992, the Purdue offensive tackle took a hit in the abdomen and was later admitted to a hospital with a life-threatening kidney ailment. Both of Grigson's kidneys shut down for two weeks, he lost 30 pounds and battled pneumonia while struggling just to sit up in bed. Two years later, Grigson was elected team captain and played so well that the Bengals drafted him in the sixth round.

Grigson never made the Bengals' roster, playing instead with the Detroit Lions in 1995 and 1996 before jumping to the Canadian Football League for one final season. A back injury forced him into retirement.

All along, though, Grigson was preparing for front-office life.

He stole media guides from the Purdue coaches' office, stashing them away in his closet to read up on opponents. Grigson didn't change his approach in the NFL.

"I just always studied and researched other players because that's what I thought I was supposed to do," Grigson said, drawing laughter. "It got to the point (in Cincinnati) where we would be in the fourth game of the preseason and the coach would say, `Grigson, what do you know about this right tackle?' And I would tell them."

Irsay wanted more than a book-smart scout to lead his team's rebuilding project.

"What I was really looking for was someone who was on the rise and has skills and qualities to take that next step up," said Irsay, who was the Colts GM when his father owned the team.

Grigson has been listed as future front-office star after helping to build two Super Bowl teams including the championship-winning Rams in 1999, his first season in the front office.

Penn State president faces alumni over sex scandal

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Penn State University President Rodney Erickson was grilled Wednesday by alumni unhappy about how the school handled a child sex abuse scandal, the firing of longtime football coach Joe Paterno and a lack of transparency in the case.

Erickson is attempting to repair the school's image with alumni, faculty, staff and students more than two months after former football assistant coach Jerry Sandusky's arrest brought controversy, criticism and contemplation to the school.

Some alumni have criticized the university's failure to conduct a complete investigation before firing Paterno and ousting Erickson's predecessor, Graham Spanier, while decrying the leadership as secretive and slow to act.

Erickson, who was greeted by polite applause, told the crowd at the start of Wednesday night's 1 1/2-hour meeting in Pittsburgh that openness and communication are his guiding principles. He said critics have accused the school of having problems in those areas recently and the school "will do better in the future."

When he said he won't allow the scandal to define the university nor "our outstanding football program," the audience of about 600 people burst into applause.

But the first questioner called the treatment of Paterno "unconscionable," drawing some applause and a few boos.

"We will certainly want to honor Joe as the future unfolds," Erickson replied.

And there was passionate and prolonged applause for another person's suggestion members of the board of trustees step down.

"I think the board will have to make those decisions," Erickson replied to some groans from the crowd.

Erickson, who said an investigation into what the trustees knew and when is ongoing, declined to answer several questions, such as why the school fired Paterno when the coach had already announced that he would retire at the end of the season.

Asked for how many defendants Penn State is paying legal fees, Erickson replied that was "a difficult question to answer." He said the school will start posting details of what the crisis has cost in legal and other fees next week.

One of the people who attended Wednesday's meeting, Gina Kelly, said she went in with negative feelings toward Erickson. She said afterward she feels he has a good plan for moving forward but not much of a plan for reconciling things that were done in the past.

Another, Jean Spadacene, said she was disappointed to hear Erickson say he hasn't spoken to Paterno since the coach was fired in early November.

"That really spoke to a lot, in a negative way," she said.

But others said Paterno was part of the problem at Penn State.

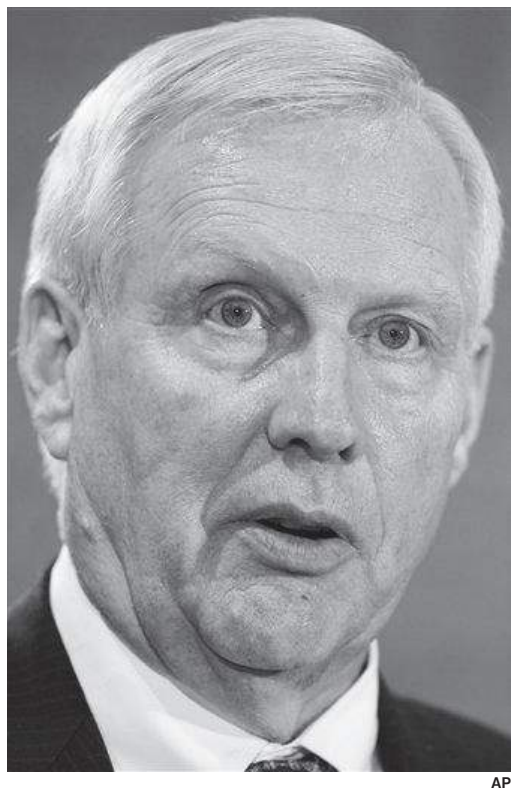
Dave Hrinak, a 1980 graduate who lives near Pittsburgh, said before the meeting that he has one main message for Erickson.

"Never again let anybody get as much power as Joe Paterno had," he said, adding that he feels that way even though he respects Paterno and is a season ticket holder at football games.

The alumni meeting came as investigators reinterview current and former employees of Penn State's athletic department as part of the case against the 67-year-old Sandusky, who's charged with sexually abusing 10 boys over a 15-year period. Sandusky has denied the charges and remains out on $250,000 bail while awaiting trial.

The alumni meeting in Pittsburgh is the first of three; the others are planned in coming days in suburban Philadelphia and New York. They are being sponsored by the Penn State Alumni Association, which has received thousands of emails and phone calls about the scandal, association president Roger Williams said.

Two Penn State administrators are facing charges they lied to a grand jury investigating



AP

In this Friday, Nov.11, 2011 file photo, Penn State University President Rodney Erickson answers a question at a press conference with student leaders in State College, Pa.

Sandusky and failed to properly report suspected child abuse. Gary Schultz, a former vice president, and Tim Curley, the athletic director, have denied the allegations and await trial.

Paterno, a legendary figure in sports, was replaced last week by New England Patriots offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien. He has described the scandal as one of the great sorrows of his life and has said that in hindsight he wishes he had done more after allegations against Sandusky were raised.

Alumni want transparency, said Virginia A. Feinman, a television news assignment editor who plans to attend the New York forum.

Feinman is a member of Penn Staters for Responsible Stewardship, a group that believes Paterno's firing and the ousting of Spanier were mishandled. The organization said it hopes to back candidates to run for elected alumni seats on the board of trustees.

Erickson said Tuesday he will step down when his contract ends in 2014.

The presiding judge in the Sandusky case said Wednesday that arguments would be heard in less than three months on pretrial issues. Trial is unlikely before autumn, a Sandusky lawyer said.

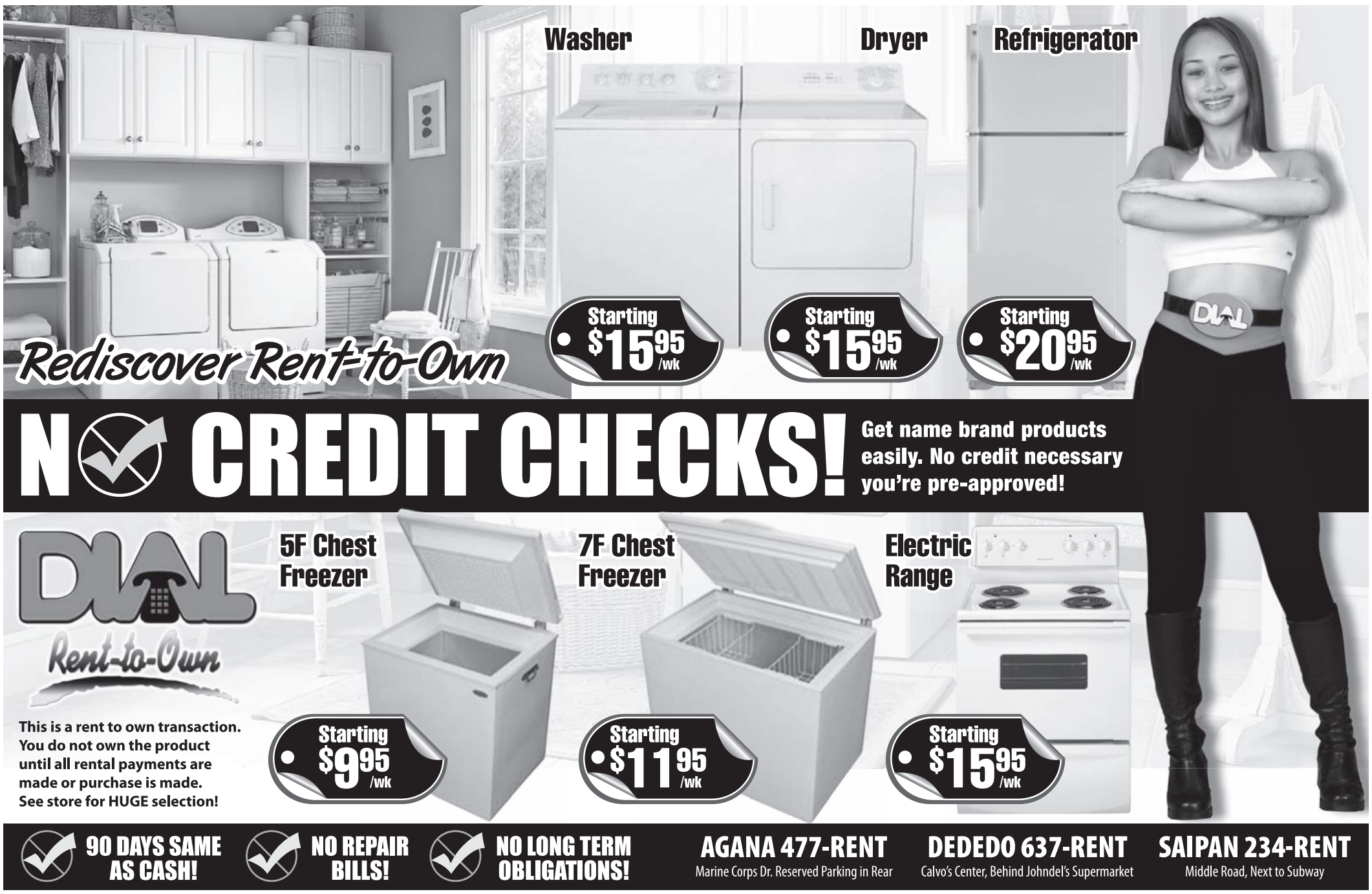
Current or former staffers of the football program are among those being interviewed anew by the attorney general's office, according to a person who was familiar with the case but was not authorized to speak and talked on the condition of anonymity. Plans for the interviews were first reported by Harrisburg's The Patriot-News newspaper.

A spokesman for the attorney general's office in Harrisburg declined to comment.

Sandusky attorney Karl Rominger, told by a reporter of the new interviews, said prosecutors would not go back to people they have already interviewed if they had nailed down the facts the first time around.

"They had years to take statements and get reliable evidence," he said Wednesday. "Going back after the fact shows they did not gather, and may never be able to gather, the proof they seek. Further, it suggests to jurors that charges were brought on flawed or inadequate information in the first instance."

Erickson told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette newspaper on Tuesday that Spanier informed members of the board of trustees about the grand jury investigation months before Sandusky was charged in November. He said he did not know details of what was discussed when Spanier met with board members in May or July when Erickson was the university's provost.



MBT tryouts start, coaches wanted

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands participating in two regional competitions this year, a series of tryouts will be held and coaches are wanted .

First up for BANMI is the U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament, which Saipan will be hosting from May 7 to 12. Then in July, BANMI will also participate in the 2012 Micronesian Basketball Tournament (open division) in Guam.

BANMI vice president Elias Rangamar in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday said that they will first hold tryouts for the U17 competition and these will start this Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The weekend tryout will run from 12pm to 2pm.

"We will hold the tryouts every Saturday for now, until we have the needed numbers and then announce the dates for the regular training sessions," Rangamar said.

Last year during the U15 MBT that Palau hosted, each nation were allowed to bring a 12-player roster, but the CNMI had only 10 players. Connie Camacho coached the team and was assisted by Lia Rangamar and the squad went on to finish second behind Guam.

This year, BANMI is looking for one coach each for the U17 and women's squads and the selected individual swill hold the posts for two years.

BANMI in a press statement said they are looking for coaches who will lead in the organizational, technical, tactical, physical, and emotional development of players named to women's 17 Under Junor National and open women's program. The selected coaches must design and implement high quality training and competitive program with the ultimate aim of developing players who are capable of performing at a high level.

Interested individuals for the positions should at least hold a Level 1 coaching certificate or willing to take the Level 1 course and have a background in playing the sport, coaching, and evaluating players. Application forms are available at the office of BANMI secretary general Michael White at the JCT Building in Susupe or can be obtained from Rangamar. Deadline for submission of application form is set for Jan. 23, while interviews will be conducted at the end of the month.

Coaches and players selected for the U17 competition will battle teams from Guam, Palau, and Yap. The U17 caging on Saipan is for west division island-nations, while host Marshall Islands, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Chuuk will have their own competition for the east side. Then all teams in the west and east groups will head to Guam for the MBT open contest.

MBT competitions are made possible after the revival of the Micronesian Basketball Confederation in Palau during the 2010 Micronesian Games. The group scheduled competitions for four years (2011 to 2014), culminating with the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei. In 2013, three more events will be held with the east and west divisions having separate U15 tournaments and then all member-countries will compete in the U19 regional contest. Venues and dates for the 2013 competitions have yet to be announced.

For more information about MBT, tryouts, and coaches application form, contact Rangamar at 234-1775 or vial email at elias-rangamar@hotmail.com.

MILLER

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Kerswell. Miller was also the only member of the Oceania ITF Touring Team to advance to the main draw as Kiribati's Teba Tito, Tahiti Heve Kelly, and the Cook Island's Tamarua Payne lost in the second round of the qualifier.

In the U16 doubles, Miller teamed up with Tito and they prevailed in their opening match in the main draw against Australia's Skinner and Trafford Mccrory. Miller and Tito took the first set, 6-3, fell in the second, 4-6, and then escaped with a 14-12 victory in the deciding third set.

Miller's three wins were all recorded yesterday, as he played the two singles qualifiers in the morning (8:30am and 11am) and the doubles match in the afternoon (3pm). Today at 8:30am, he duels Australia's Damien Minguez in the first round of the main draw. In the doubles, Miller and Tito face eighth-ranked Reegan Andrew Brown and Tyson Daly.

Tammy Ackerman and Thea Minor are also scheduled to play in the main draw of the girls U12 and U16 competitions, respectively, today. Ackerman squares off against Kirsten Waters in the U12 singles at 10:30am and then join forces with Jasmin Ruby Starr in battling Jovana Stanisic and Mia Vukicevic in the doubles at 4pm. Minor's first round foe in the girls U16 singles is Priscilla Dawson, while in the doubles, Minor partners with Papua New Guinea's Lorish Puluspene and they will take on Australia's Julia Stutsel and Victoria Toole.

Meanwhile, Rafael Jones played in a separate event yesterday and won his opening match in the qualifying tournament for the 2012 Wodonga Grasscourt Championships.

Jones was entered in the men's singles and eliminated Cameron Hart, 6-3, 6-3. However, the CNMI netter missed a ticket to the main draw after losing to No. 12 Benjamin Thomas Robinson in the second round, 2-6, 3-6.

MHS

From Page 32

Darag finished with 26 points to lead all scorers, while MCS' Calbatica managed 16 on the short end.

Back on Monday, SSHS shot ahead, 18-3, right out of the gate. The Manta Rays' Christian Mizer carried the torch with eight pints in the opening period.

SSHS never looked back and amassed a daunting 39-7 margin at the break. Seven different players put a hand on offense and its defense did a great job stifling the Knights on the other end.

MCS would not recover from the early meltdown and the count shifted to 56-15 with 10 minutes to go.

Jimmy Tudela racked up eight points for SSHS in the third quarter.

He led the Dolphins with 14 total points, while MCS' Calbatica led all scorers with 16.

SSHS pulled its starters early in the fourth quarter, but SSHS' bench managed to trade baskets with the Knights for the remainder of the contest.

The season continues today at 4pm with a junior pairing between Grace Christian Academy and SSHS followed by the varsity matchup at the MHS Gym.

WEDNESDAY GAME

MHS 82 – Darag 26, Dela Rosa 16, Caro 15, Lacsina 11, V Sablan 4, Vertudez 4, Moran 2, Salas 2, Chan 2, Maranan 2.

MCS 39 – Calbatica 16, Kautz 7, Igitol 5, Pamintuan 4, Saludez 4, taguchi 4, Gagaring 2, Montes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-10, 39-19, 61-30, 82-39

MONDAY GAME

SSHS 69 – Tudela 14, De Guzman 12, Mizer 8, Aranda 8, Salem 7, Hofschneider 6, J. Sablan 4, Villanueva 4, Alegre 2, Escalada 2, Mariano 2.

MCS 39 – Calbatica 16, Kautz 5, Pamintuan 4, Gagaring 3, Taguchi 2, Salas 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-3, 39-7, 56-16, 69-39.

MDX

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Tibayan opened the first period with a triple, but MDX answered with a big 13-0 run behind the combined nine points from Zack Babauta and Ben Lisua. After Tibayan's triple, Wushin went scoreless for more than three minutes and obviously missed the presence of gunner Pete Lizama, who reported to the game only in the 3:35 mark of the first period with MDX holding a commanding 17-5 lead.

After the opening 10 minutes of play, MDX protected a double-digit lead, 21-11, and then started the second with a 10-0 spree for a 31-11 advantage. The lead even ballooned to as much as 21 before Wushin made a rally midway in the second canto and sliced the lead to nine at the break, 30-39. Edwin Santos led the comeback with his nine points, while Lizama contributed five.

At the beginning of the second half, Wushin moved closer, 35-42, after Lizama banked a triple. However, Wushin self-destructed after that, committing several turnovers and missing a lot of free throws

MDX regained the twin-digit lead behind its hot 3-point shooting in the third, as they converted four shots from downtown for a 57-43 advantage, entering the final canto.

Wushin tried to overhaul the lead and moved within 11, 53-64, with less than four minutes left, but MDX hung on and sealed the win from the foul line, converting nine charities. In contrast, Wushin missed more than 20 free throws to fall short in its finals bid.

Lisua top-scored for MDX with 24 points, while Dexter Tenorio and Babauta chipped in 13 each. Santos paced Wushin with 18, while Lizama and Junar Guiab added 16 and 14, respectively. Jun Tabora had only 10 points for Wushin as he was saddled by fouls early in the first half.

In the second semis pairing, Blue Haus played better in the second half to secure the second semis seat.

Blue Haus fell behind at the break, 27-30, before holding SCS to eight points in the third to grab the upper hand, 45-38, going into the final canto.

SCS had control of the match in the first half with big man Glenn Aquino playing decoy, dribbling and attacking the basket before dishing off to Manolo Manalo. Manalo finished with 13 points in the first half, but had limited touches in the second half, as Blue Haus guarded the passing lane and managed to push the tempo of the game.

Only three SCS players scored in their third-quarter meltdown, while Blue Haus drew contribution from six players. Blue Haus continued its balance offense in the fourth canto to preserve the lead and take the win, while Manalo almost single-handedly carried SCS on his shoulder and finished with a game-high 23 markers.

SCS played without Rocyl Ritual, who had 12 points in the previous game, and the team also missed the contribution of Robert Guiang, who played in the semis, but was scoreless.

Badong Camacho led Blue Haus with 14 points, while Jun Abedes logged 12.

First Game

MDX 81 – Lisua 24, Tenorio 13, Babauta 13, Johanes 9, Lauron 9, Palacios 7, Park 3.

Wushin Express 64 – Santos 18, Lizama 16, Guia 14, Tabora 10, Tibayan 3, Villasan 3.

Scoring by quarters: 21-11, 39-30, 57-43, 81-64.

Second Game

Blue Haus/Satbahi 66 – B. Camacho 14, Abedes 12, Cruz 9, Itaas 9, Talania 8, Sison 7, E. Camacho 4, Fernandez 2.

SCS Heavy Equipment 52 – Manalo 23, Mina 9, Pantaleon 9, Miranda 7, Aquino 4.

Scoring by quarters: 15-10, 27-30, 45-38, 66-52.

DANDAN

From Page 32

as only the Top 4 teams will advance to the next round.

San Vicente is still in the fight for a playoff seat, as it holds a 4-2 card for third place, just half a game ahead of Morales and one win up against fifth placer Gualo Rai/Blue Haus (3-2). As Lito/Chow Queen (5-1) and Chalan Kiya/Loving Hands (5-2) are assured of the first two playoff berths in Bracket B.

Dandan bowed out of the competition with a victory after getting double-figure contributions from three players. Daniel Dela Cruz led Dandan with 17 points, making seven of them in the crucial fourth quarter, including the team's last four points. Marvin Ibanez chipped in 15, while Ramza Tenepere and Nestor Taracatac contributed 11 and 10, respectively.

Don Brennan had 18 markers for San Vicente, which missed important free throws in the homestretch, allowing Dandan to steal the win.

Both teams started slow with San Vicente having a slight edge after the first period, 11-8. Then Ibanez picked up the scoring for Dandan, nailing nine in the second quarter, but a late triple from Ricardo Cruz helped San Vicente keep the lead at halftime, 28-25.

In the third period, Dandan managed to grab the driver's seat, 46-45, with Taracatac making eight of the team's last 10 points in that canto. Teams traded baskets in the fourth canto, but Dandan came out on top in the end behind Dela Cruz's last two baskets coupled with San Vicente's misses from the stripe.

Chalan Kanoa 69, Chalan Laulau 46

Chalan Kanoa dominated Chalan Laulau/AON Insurance from start to finish en route to a 23-point win.

The victory improved Chalan Kanoa's record to 5-2 for third place and strengthened its chances for a playoff seat in Bracket A. Chalan LauLau dropped to a 2-4 record and sixth place and is unlikely to march into the next round.

Chalan Kanoa limited Chalan Laulau to 13 points in the first half for the easy victory. Chalan Laulau scored only two field goals in the first period, while Chalan Kanoa made 15 markers for the early double-digit lead.

By the end of the second canto, the advantage ballooned to 29, 42-13, as Chalan Laulau continued to struggle on offense, while J.R. Mina led Chalan Kanoa's breakaway, tallying seven points in that quarter.

Chalan Laulau failed to make a headway in the second half, while Chalan Kanoa slowed down a bit, but the big lead in the first half was enough to propel the latter to a victory.

Sonny Lerio paced Chalan Kanoa with 16 points, while Ramil Santos and Mina finished with 14 and 13, respectively. Ezra Caro and Romy Bernardo also had double figures with 10 markers apiece.

In the last game of the day, San Jose/CP Repair won over Triskelion, 58-46.

It was a non-bearing game, as both teams are already eliminated. San Jose notched its first win, while Triskelion is still winless in seven games.

First Game

Dandan/Hawaiian Rock 59 – Dela Cruz 17, Ibanez 15, Tenepere 11, Taracatac 10, Corotan 4, Pena 2.

San Vicente/Saints 58 – Brennan 18, Galarse 13, Iglecias 8, Eubanks 6, Cruz 5.

Scoring by quarters: 8-11, 25-28, 46-45, 59-58.

Second Game

Chalan Kanoa/Fong's Bakery 69 – Lerio 16, Santos 14, Mina 13, Caro 10, Bernardo 10, Alano 4, Pena 2.

AON Insurance 46 – Bucalig 17, Poquiz 14, Del Rosario 7, Manipon 6, Echavez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-4, 42-13, 56-31, 69-46.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	7	3	.700	—
New York	6	4	.600	1
Boston	4	5	.444	2 1/2
Toronto	4	7	.364	3 1/2
New Jersey	2	9	.182	5 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	8	3	.727	—
Orlando	7	3	.700	1/2
Atlanta	7	4	.636	1
Charlotte	2	8	.200	5 1/2
Washington	1	9	.100	6 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	10	2	.833	—
Indiana	7	3	.700	2
Cleveland	4	5	.444	4 1/2
Milwaukee	3	6	.333	5 1/2
Detroit	2	8	.200	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	7	4	.636	—
Dallas	6	5	.545	1
Memphis	3	6	.333	3
Houston	3	7	.300	3 1/2
New Orleans	3	7	.300	3 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	10	2	.833	—
Portland	7	3	.700	2
Denver	7	4	.636	2 1/2
Utah	6	4	.600	3
Minnesota	3	7	.300	6

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	8	4	.667	—
L.A. Clippers	5	3	.625	1
Phoenix	4	5	.444	2 1/2
Sacramento	4	7	.364	3 1/2
Golden State	3	6	.333	3 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Indiana 96, Atlanta 84
Sacramento 98, Toronto 91
New York 85, Philadelphia 79
Chicago 78, Washington 64
Oklahoma City 95, New Orleans 85
Dallas 90, Boston 85
San Antonio 101, Houston 95, OT
Denver 123, New Jersey 115
L.A. Lakers 90, Utah 87, OT
Orlando 107, Portland 104
L.A. Clippers 95, Miami 89, OT

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saipan Billiards Association Awards Banquet

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The IT&E Voyagers graciously accept their 2011 Saipan Billiards Association's Budweiser Cup awards for the Agingan division.

Obyan's 8-Ball sinkers Zaldy Quebral and Dave Maratita, Agingan rack runner Senen Pangelinan, Obyan rack runner Rey Pinangay, Agingan rack runner Rolly Villanueva, most improved Agingan player Mark Brian Nelvis, Agingan 8-Ball sinker Joseph Achas, and most improved Obyan players Mei and Rick Rengiil pose for a group photo.

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Crazy 8 was recognized as runner-up of the Obyan field.

Jonny's Home Boys Five receive their runner-up trophies for the Agingan division.

The IT&E Incredibles pose with their Agingan division runner-up trophies.

IT&E Voyagers' Rolly Villanueva, left, and Patrick Taitano of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack were recognized as the most valuable players in their respective Agingan and Obyan divisions.

Dave Maratita, Richard Santos, and Randy Sablan of D'Pirates Choice Bar's Pirata pose with their Obyan division Budweiser Cup trophies.

Team SCS finished third place in the Obyan division along with team sportsmanship honors.

VFW Post 3457's X-Tream won the sportsmanship team award for the Agingan Division.

Clippers withstand Heat 95-89 in OT

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jets teammates defend Sanchez amid heavy criticism

PAGE 28

Miller undefeated, makes main draw

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

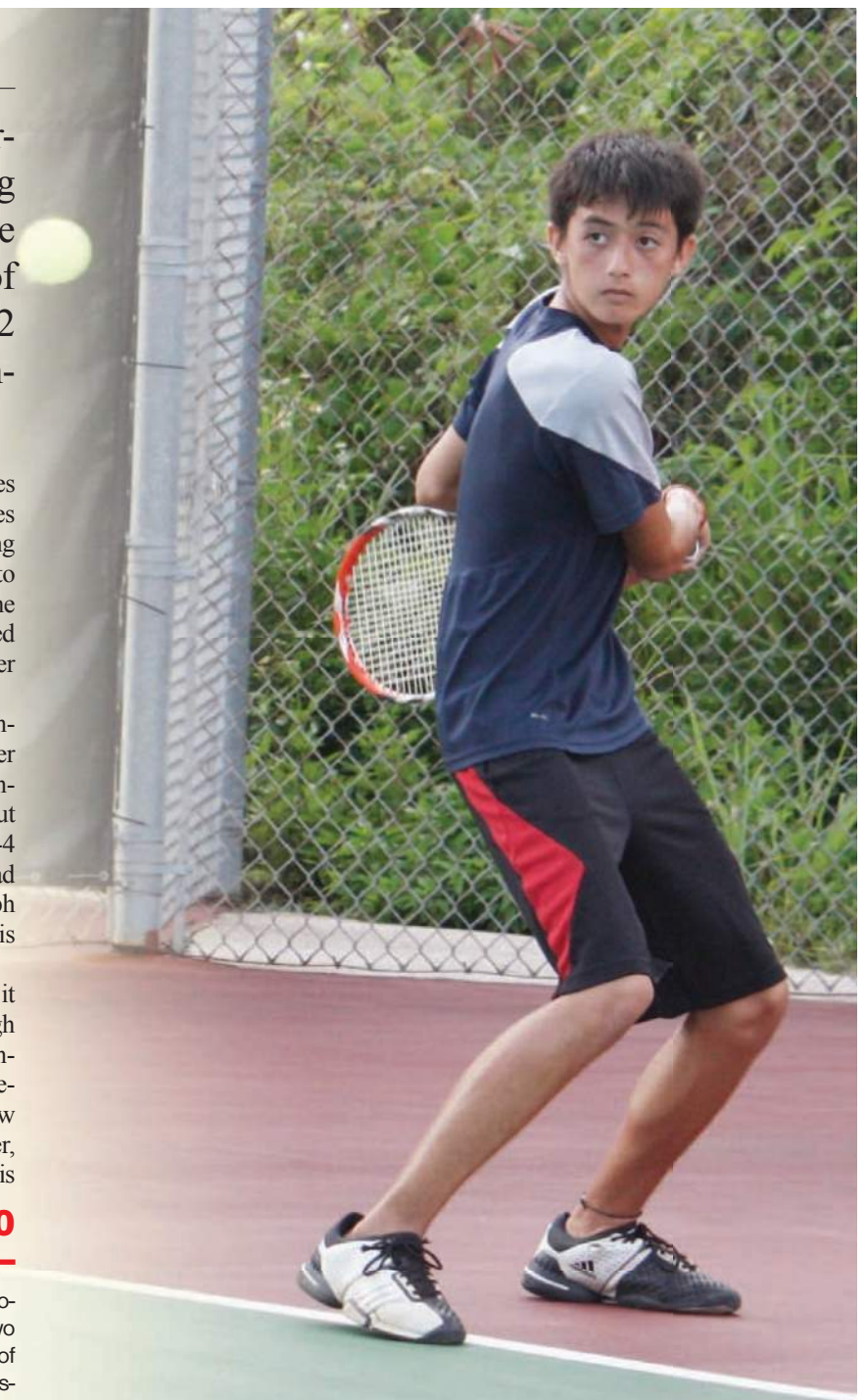
Christian Miller survived a qualifying tournament to barge into the main draw of the U16 singles event in the 2012 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga, Australia.

Miller notched victories against his two seeded foes in the 28-player qualifying competition to earn a slot to the 32-player main draw. The CNMI junior netter first challenged No. 11 seed Beau Mathew Pleming and won in straight sets after the one-hour and 15-minute match, 7-5, 6-2.

In the next round, Miller played extended tennis and managed to pull off another victory. Miller eked out a nail-biter in the opening set against sixth-ranked Lachlan Skinner, 7-6, but failed to close out the match early after the latter recovered with a 6-4 victory in the second set. In the third set, Miller had enough gas left and nailed a convincing 6-2 triumph to complete the upset. The CNMI bet battled his Australian foe for about three hours.

Miller was the lone unseeded player to make it to the main draw. Joining the Saipan Southern High School student to the next round were Reegan Andrew Brown, Dylan Peter Bloor, Christian Lodewicus Slabbert, Tom Patrick Zaleski, and Andrew Healy, who were seeded first to fifth in the qualifier, No. 10 pick Adam Rynsaardt, and No. 8 pick Chris

See MILLER on Page 30



CNMI junior tennis player Christian Miller, seen here going for a return in the PIC tournament last year, won two games last Wednesday, to advance to the main draw of the U16 singles event in the 2012 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga, Australia.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX vs Blue Haus in DLX finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MDX and Blue Haus/Satbahi played steady in the second half to oust their respective foes and arrange a winner-take-all championship match in the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League tonight at the Gualo Rai Court Basketball.

MDX derailed Wushin in the first semis match last Wednesday night, 81-64, while Blue Haus/Satbahi downed SCS Heavy Equipment in the other Final Four pairing, 66-52, to set up their final showdown today at 7pm.

The win was 10th in as many games for MDX, which used a 13-3 start to seize control of the match and then foiled Wushin Express' repeated comeback bids in the second half to advance to the finals.

Wushin Express' Dick

See MDX on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MDX's Ziddy Johanes goes for a layup against Wushin Express' Jun Tabora during their semis game in the DLX caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Dandan upsets San Vicente; San Jose, Chalan Kanoa win

San Jose/CP Repair's Arman Anasan goes for a layup against a Triskelion defender during their game in the MDX caging last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Dandan/Hawaiian Rock pulled off an upset over San Vicente/Saints, while San Jose/CP Repair and Chalan Kanoa/Fong's Bakery also won their respective games when action in the 2011 MDX Amateur Radio Club Inter-Village Friendship League resumed last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

Dandan eked out 59-58 victory over the favored San Vicente to finish Bracket B with a 3-5 record for sixth place in the nine-team field. Despite the win, Dandan is already out of the running for the playoffs,

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MHS Dolphins on a roll in MISO caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Marianas High School Dolphins toppled the Knights of Mount Carmel School, 82-44, in Wednesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization varsity pairing held at the MHS Gymnasium.

With its second win in as many games, the unbeaten Dolphins are officially on a streak, while MCS suffered its second straight loss this week.

Back on Monday, the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays stung the Knights, 69-39.

On Wednesday, MHS built an early 15-10 edge in the opening 10 minutes thanks largely to Erick Dela Rosa's eight points.

Marianas High School's Erick Dela Rosa goes right through two Mount Carmel School defenders in Wednesday's MISO boys basketball game held at the MHS Gymnasium.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

It remained close until the last five minutes of the first half when MHS surged ahead, 39-19.

The Dolphins' transition offense came alive late in the second quarter as John Darag and Ezra Caro delivered eight points apiece in the charge.

MCS' Reynald Calbatica and Thomas Kautz combined for 15 points in the first half.

MHS kept the pressure on the Knights after the pause and went on to double them up, 61-30, heading into the final period.

Darag added eight more markers in the third quarter and received mixed support from his teammates.

Darag then delivered 10 points in garbage time as the Dolphins cruised to the easy win.

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